Course Syllabus

Dr. Eugene Hausmann, D.Min.
genehausmann@msn.com
517-937-9042

Course Description

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of spirituality and religion as they are expressed in six of the world’s great religions: Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The focus will be on the various ways in which peoples of diverse religious traditions and histories answer the ultimate questions about the origin, purpose and destiny of the universe and of the self. Students will strive to assess and clarify their own spirituality and religion as they interact with the historic faith traditions. As much as possible, the students will hear and experience the religions from guest speakers from the religions and field trips to their places of worship.

Required Textbooks (or use on-line versions)

The Holy Bible (any version)
Tao Te Ching (Stephen Mitchell, trans.) ISBN 0-06-095543-0
The Koran (N.J. Dawood, trans.)

All of these texts are available online at www.sacredtexts.com at no cost.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1) Students will examine the sacred Writings of 6 major world religions
2) Students will experience the religions in their places of worship and from their teachers
3) Students will become familiar with
   a. The historical background of each religion
   b. The key doctrinal/theological/philosophical beliefs of each religion
   c. The basic values and ethics of each religion
   d. Key rituals and practices
   e. The social dimension of each religion
4) Students will clarify their own spirituality and religion in relation to the great world religions
Course Requirements

- Attendance (30% of grade)
  (one point for every hour of attendance)

- 6 reflection papers (35% of grade)
  1) 500 words on Taoism reading for class one
  2) 500 words on Hinduism and 500 words on Buddhism readings for class 2
  3) 500 words on Judaism, 500 words on Christianity and 500 words on Islam for class three

- Research Paper due on class 4 (25% of grade)
  (8 – page research paper on a religious issue of your choice)

- 15 – minute Oral Presentation of research papers on class 4 (10% of grade)

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Dishonesty Policy (See page 169 of catalog)

Disability Statement

If a student is in need of an accommodation based on the impact of your disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Students with Disabilities for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities, I encourage you to do so. Just a reminder, requests for accommodations are not retroactive.
Attendance policy

Due to the format of 4 8-hour classes, attendance is essential on all four days. A foreseen conflict with any class session prohibits registration for this course. Unforeseen emergencies require a complete makeup of the 8 hour session missed. Attendance and oral presentation involve a total of 40% of the grade for this course.

January 23, 2010

Introductions

Assignments:

Read pp 1 – 81 of Tao Te Ching.
Write 500 words reflection paper on what you read.

Syllabus

Worldview, spirituality and religion

Taoism

March 6, 2010

Hinduism

Read chapters 1-8 and chapter 18 of Bhagavad Gita. Write 500 word reflection on reading

Buddhism

Read pp 1-74 of the Teachings of the Buddha. Write 500 word reflection on reading

March 27, 2010

Judaism

Read Genesis from the Bible. Write 500 word reflection.

Christianity

Read the Gospel of Mark. Write 500 word reflection

Islam

Read 80 pages of the Koran. Write 500 word reflection paper

April 24, 2010

Oral presentations of research papers

Turn in 8 – page research paper
15 – minute oral presentation of your paper

Pre-class assignment

Read pp 1 – 81 of Tao Te Ching. Write 500 words reflection paper on what you read.