

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 58 - Teaching About Religion

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level V; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU

51 hours Lecture

An introduction to the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, along with the major religious traditions of India and Asia, within the context of a practical exploration of the moral, legal, and educational issues raised in teaching about religions in public schools in the United States.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define and recall the Constitutional principles in teaching about religions in public schools in the United States.
- B. Identify and summarize key philosophical terms in the analysis of world views.
- C. Recognize, describe and distinguish between the major religious traditions of the world with special emphasis on their expression in the United States.
- D. Assess and evaluate specific moral and legal controversies arising from the teaching of religions in the public schools in the United States.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

		Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>			<u>Hours</u>
1. Religion, Public Schools, and the First Amendment			15.00
A. Religion, Education, and American Democracy			
B. The Supreme Court and Public Education			
C. teaching About religions in Public Schools			
2. Abrahamic Religions			18.00
A. Judaism			
B. Christianity			
C. Islam			
3. Religions of India			12.00
A. Hinduism			
B. Buddhism			
C. Sikhism			
4. Religions of Asia			6.00
A. Confucianism			
B. Daosim			
Total Hours			51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Reading Assignments
- E. Multimedia Presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Portfolios
- B. Projects
- C. Homework
- D. Class participation
- E. Students will write at least 1,500 words. This requirement will be met either by essay examinations, take-home tests, short papers, or book reports. (Note: all written work will be evaluated on both its form and content.)
- F. Quizzes/Exams

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
- B. Writing Assignments
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Smith, H.. The World's Religions. Rev. ed. Edition. HarperOne, 2009.
- B. Fisher, M. P.. Living Religions. 7 Edition. Prentice-Hall, 2007.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Online and multimedia resources Charles C. Haynes (editor) and Oliver Thomas (legal editor): Finding Common Ground: A Guide to Religious Liberty in Public Schools (<http://www.freedomforum.org/templates/document.asp?documentID=3979>)
- B. Diana L. Eck and the Pluralism Project: On Common Ground: World Religions in America (CD-ROM)

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Date: 10/05/2009