

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

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Status: Permanent
Effective: Fall 2018

October 19, 2017

A. Identification:

1. Subject Area: Philosophy (PHI)
2. Course Number: 122
3. Course Title: Philosophy of Religion
4. Credit Hours: 3
5. Course Description: Philosophical readings, discussion, and analysis of Eastern Buddhist and Western monotheist religious traditions including concepts of 'God', arguments for and against God's existence, the Buddhist concept of the self and the nature of 'nirvana'. Three lecture.

B. Course Goals: The overarching goal of this class is to empower students to use the tools of philosophy for the purposes of both understanding and critically reflecting upon religious ideas and ideals.

C. Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate their ability to do the following:

- a. analyze significant religious concepts such as omnipotence, omniscience, goodness, evil, free-will, pre-determination, eternity, nirvana, and selflessness;
- b. critically engage versions of the ontological, cosmological, and design arguments for God's existence;
- c. explain the difference between a "no-self" view of personhood common in religions such as Buddhism and the "substantial and eternal self" view of personhood common in religions such as Christianity and Islam;
- d. comprehend how religious teachings affects and is affected by culture in regards to gender roles, responses to oppression, and artistic expression;
- e. critically engage attempts of Eastern and Western thinkers to account for the suffering and evil present in the world by examining atheistic arguments from evil against ultimate meaning in life.

D. Course Outcomes Assessment will include:

- a. Reading questions designed to get the student to interact with the core texts of the course.
- b. Essay assignments in which the students engage key concepts and arguments that appear in the religious traditions we are covering.
- c. Exams which challenge the student to accurately interpret and respond to the core texts.

E. Course Content will include:

- a. An introduction to philosophical modes of thought
- b. An analysis of the concept 'God' in monotheistic thought
- c. Arguments for god's existence such as the cosmological and design argument
- d. Arguments against god's existence based on widespread suffering
- e. An analysis of Buddhist conceptions of the self
- f. An analysis of the Buddhist concept 'nirvana'.