

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE

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Status: Special Topics  
Effective: Fall 2017

July 19, 2017

A. Identification:

1. Subject Area: Philosophy (PHI)
2. Course Number: 298
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:

Students will learn to do the following:

- a. understand the role that conceptual analysis plays in gaining clarity regarding a variety of religious teaching and doctrines;
- b. examine and critique several types of argument for the existence of a monotheistic deity;
- c. distinguish between Buddhist concepts of the self and Western concepts as they are embedded in the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;
- d. identify and discuss several ways in which religion both affects and is affected by culture;
- e. examine and critique how a variety of religious traditions account for the ubiquity of suffering and evil in the world.

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. ten sets of reading questions which challenge students to explain a variety of texts written by philosophers of religion. These reading questions will be completed before any in-class discussion of the material;
- b. two multi-draft essay assignments in which they both accurately represent the arguments they are studying and provide either additional supporting arguments or counterarguments to these arguments;
- c. both a midterm and a final exam composed of short answer (paragraph length), true/false, and multiple choice questions.

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'.