

PHIL410

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : PHIL410 **Title :** God and World

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: What is it that we name, what is it that we mean, when we say God? Although we may speak of God as if we are naming some entity or being whose identity we hold in common understanding, as we will see, God is a name used to express a range of concepts and experiences that have varying and often conflicting features. In this class we will examine some of these concepts and descriptions of experiences of the divine. Ultimately, however, this is not a study of God but of man and his attempt to understand his relation within and between God and the world.

Course Scope:

This course examines the three major monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It uses a historical approach. We will attempt to see the creation stories and faith in one God as they may have appeared to those living at that time, rather than through the lens of modern day assumptions. We move on to the origins and development of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. We take an in-depth look at the God of each tradition. We end the course by speculating on the future of faith.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)
 - Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2)
 - Define and examine the significance of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)
 - Evaluate the Unity and Trinity in Christianity (CO 4)
 - Assess Abraham in Islam & Christianity (CO 5)
 - Draw conclusions about the future of God (CO 6)
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Outline

Week 1: In the Beginning

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 19 - 40.

Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2. Genesis (1) verses 1:1 to 2:4a; (2) 2:4b to 2:22

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+1-2> Audio of Bible: <http://www.audio-bible.com/bible/bible.html> The Creation Story Genesis 1:1-11:26

Assignment

Week 1: Introduction forum

Forum Week 1

Week 2: Unity/Trinity

Learning Objectives

Evaluate the Unity and Trinity in Christianity (CO 4)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 19 - 40. Pages 8 - 26 The Trinity: A guide for the perplexed. Paul M. Collins. Continuum, 2008.

Assignment

Week 2: Forum

Week 2 - Quiz

Week 3: The God of Islam

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)

Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2) Define and examine the significance of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 19 – 40, 65 - 88.

Hewer, C.T.R., Understanding Islam: The First Ten Steps, 2006. Chapters 1 – 9 (spread this reading out through week 7).

Understanding Islam [electronic resource] / Cafer S. Yaran. Pages 22 - 37 Understanding Islam. Cafer S. Yaran. Academic Press, 2007.

Assignment

Week 3: Forum

Week 3 - Analysis and Interpretation due by Sunday

Week 4: Abraham in Islam & Christianity

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)

Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2) Define and examine the significance of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)

Assess Abraham in Islam & Christianity (CO 5)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 65 - 88.

Understanding Islam [electronic resource] / Cafer S. Yaran. Pages 22 - 37

Understanding Islam. Cafer S. Yaran. Academic Press, 2007.

Assignment

Week 4: Forum

Week 4 - Quiz

Week 5: The God of Judaism

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)

Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2)

Define and examine the significance of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 43 - 64.

Assignment

Week 5: Forum

Week 5 - Integrated Paper Proposal

Week 6: The God of Islam & Judaism

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)

Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2) Define and examine the significance

of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)

Evaluate the Unity and Trinity in Christianity (CO 4)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 43 – 64, 65 - 88. Understanding Islam [electronic resource] / Cafer S. Yaran. Pages 22 - 37 Understanding Islam. Cafer S. Yaran. Academic Press, 2007.

Assignment

Week 6 Forum

Week 6 Integrated Paper update

Week 7: The God of Christianity, Islam, & Judaism

Learning Objectives

Identify the roots from which the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam grew (CO 1)
Compare and contrast the conceptions of God in these religions (CO 2) Define and examine the significance of the terms Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (CO 3)

Readings

McAnally, Bryan. The indispensable guide to practically everything: World religions and what people believe. Pages 19 – 40, 43 - 64, 65 - 88.

Assignment

Week 7: Forum

Week 7 - Final Integrated Paper

Week 8: The Future of God

Learning Objectives

Draw conclusions about the future of God (CO 6)

Readings

Chapters 3 & 4 Faith, belief, and religion. Robert Traer. Davies Group, 2001. Chapters 1 - 4 Science and religion: A very short introduction. Thomas Dixon. Oxford U. Press, 2008.

Assignment

Week 8: Forum

Week 8 – Reading Report

Evaluation

Forum Discussions: Each week, you will participate in one or two discussions. For all discussions, references to details from your course and readings are required, as well as two or more peer replies.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Initial posts must be 250+ words, using correct grammar and spellcheck, posted by Thursday 11:55 p.m. ET each week. Part of the requirement for a substantive post is to bring something new to the conversation. Read the forum prompt and fully answer it, demonstrate understanding of the lesson/content, include evidence from firsthand experience, reference to the course materials, and apply what you're discussing to work, life, and reality.

For Peer replies, respond substantively to at least TWO of your classmates for full credit, with 100+ words each post. This helps build a friendly and collegial environment in our class, and is part of your forum grade. Substantively answering questions that the instructor (me!) asks during that week's discussion DO count toward your participation points. Making substantive posts will make the discussion more interesting and educational for everyone. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- Use spell-check and check your word count.
- If you do quote from a source, please list the source at the bottom of your post.
- Your responses should be a friendly greeting and include two or more of the following:
 - Asking a thoughtful question
 - Share additional content or sources
 - Share your insight and experience/offer perspective
 - Give encouragement and making other connections to the topic

The purpose of peer replies is to develop academic discussion and take our thinking to a deeper level in applying this week's topic.

DUE DATES:

Initial post (250+ words) due: Thursday by 11:55 p.m. ET

Responses (100+ words each) to 2 or more peers and/or your instructor due: Sunday by 11:55 p.m. ET

Late posts may be reduced by 10% per day late for up to 5 days. Posts 6 or more days late may be reduced by 50% of the possible earned score.

Additional Assignments:

Other assignments in the course include quizzes, readings, and papers. Please visit the individual assignment descriptions within the course for details, instructions, and due dates.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	45.00 %
Week 1 - Introduction & Expectations	5.00 %
Week 1 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 2 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 3 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 4 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 5 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 6 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 7 - Forum	5.00 %
Week 8 - Forum	5.00 %
Essays	45.00 %
Week 3 - Analysis and Interpretation	13.50 %
Week 5 - Integrated Paper Proposal	4.50 %
Week 6 - Integrated Paper Update	4.50 %
Week 7 - Integrated Paper	13.50 %

Week 8 - Reading Report	9.00 %
Quizzes	10.00 %
Week 2 - Quiz	5.00 %
Week 4 - Quiz	5.00 %

Materials

Book Title: The Indispensable Guide to Practically Everything: World Religions and What People Believe - e-book available in the APUS Online Library; Hard copy not available from the APUS Bookstore, please try other sources.

Author: McAnally, Bryan

Publication Info: GuidepostsBooks

ISBN: 9780824947705

Book Title: To find the library e-book(s) req'd for your course, please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the eReserve by course #. You must be logged in to eCampus first to access the links.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Additional Resources

Are posted in the classroom under each week's lesson.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework to the Humanities Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the

course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.
- The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior

instructor approval.

- Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your quiz. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time, Day 7 of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.
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University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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