Course Information

Division: Humanities and Social Sciences

Contact Hours 45

Total Credits 3

Prerequisite
RDG 090 and ENGL 090 or qualifying scores on accepted placement tests

Course Description
This course presents an introductory inquiry into the study of the philosophy of religion and how philosophers evaluate religious claims. The concern of the course is not to inculcate any particular faith or doctrinal position but to develop an understanding and appreciation of basic religious concepts and to give students philosophical tools to evaluate them. This course is a satisfier course for the Global Studies Degree Designation.

This course is approved as a General Education competency satisfier.

General Education Goal: Social and Cultural Awareness
Competency: Recognize expressions of the human experience
Learning Outcome: Students will explore, share, and reconstruct expressions of the human experience within the context of the past and present.

General Education Learning Objectives

A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.

B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.

C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

D. Create or reconstruct an expression of the human experience and share with others (if the class is performance based).

Course Outcomes
In order to evidence success in this course, the students will be able to:

1. Recognize the role of religions in world cultures past and present.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
    C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

2. Recognize and utilize the basic vocabulary of the field used to analyze religious concepts.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.

3. Recognize the methods of philosophy and apologetics: the philosophical defense of religious beliefs.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.

4. Recognize that atheists, agnostics, and people of faith can and do philosophize about religion.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
    C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

5. Recognize that philosophy of religion is a second-order activity, standing at one remove from its subject matter--related to the religious realm in the same way that the philosophy of law is related to the legal realm, the philosophy of art is related to the work of the artist, or the philosophy of science relates to the specific science.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
    C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

6. Identify the existential themes running through modern approaches to the philosophy of religion.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
    C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

7. Identify the central beliefs of a variety of the world's religions, past and present.
   Applies to General Education Objectives
   A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
   B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
   C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

8. Demonstrate the ability to objectively discuss various aspects of world religions and the philosophical principles used to support these religions.
   Applies to General Education Objectives
   A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
   B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.

9. Demonstrate the ability to state the philosophical and theological principles of each of the philosophers examined in this course.
   Applies to General Education Objectives
   A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
   B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
   C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

10. Recognize and analyze the differences between being religious and being spiritual.
    Applies to General Education Objectives
    A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
    B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
    C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

Last Updated: November 2017
By: Paul Hedeen