

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**History of Religions II**

**PHIL 1317\_87**

**Dr. Jeffrey W. Taylor**

**NOTE: This is an online course.**

- **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

**Course Description:**

A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

This class will cover the history and teachings of Christianity. It is not a comparative religions course. (The catalog description is the State of Texas generic description.)

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Jeffrey W. Taylor

MCC Email: jtaylor@mclennan.edu.

Office Phone Number: (580)585-7661 (personal cell) **I do not text.** Please do not call after 9pm CST.

Office Location: not on campus

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Messages sent through Brightspace Instant Messages usually will be answered within 24 hours

Other Instruction Information:

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: *The Christian Tradition: A Historical and Theological Introduction*

Author: Peter Feldmeier

Edition: 1st

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 978-0-19-937438-0 (9780199374380)

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

This class is built around reading, reflection, and writing with discussion.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** -- to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique religious texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse beliefs, practices, and values of selected religious traditions.
3. Trace and present orally or in writing the origin and historical developments of selected religious traditions.
4. Communicate understanding of selected religious traditions, orally or in writing.

Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs.

### **Course Outline or Schedule:**

Each section of the class will include reading, reading quizzes, and participation in a Discussion Board.

The Christian Canons of Scripture  
Early Christianity  
Medieval & Byzantine Christianity  
Renaissance & Reformations  
Modern Christianity

### **Course Grading Information:**

- 12 Reading Quizzes @ 20 points each = 240 points
- 5 Discussion Boards from Primary Sources = 100 points
- Worship Visit Reflection Essay = 50 points
- Christian Art & Architecture Assignment = 30 points
- Final Exam = 50 points

*Reading Quizzes* will consist of “objective” questions such as multiple choice, etc. They will be open book, but timed. You will need to master the material before you take the quiz. You will take

- 9 Reading Quizzes from *The Christian Tradition* @ 20 pts each
- 5 Reading Quizzes from Primary Sources @ 20 pts each

Two Reading Quizzes will count as extra-credit, if all 14 are taken.

*Discussion Board* evaluation will be done both on meeting the requirements and quality. Points will not be awarded until the end of the course to allow me to judge improvement over time and take that into consideration.

*Worship Visit Reflection Essay* will be evaluated for thoughtfulness as you give careful consideration to the suggested questions plus any others you think of. Instructions are in Assignments.

## History of Religions II

PHIL 1317\_87

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*Christian Art & Architecture Assignment* will be evaluated for the consideration and thought expressed in the reflections. You will not be expected to have a background in art criticism. Instructions are in Assignments.

*Final Exam* The final exam will be available for 24 hours before it is due since this class typically has students living in several time zones around the world. You will be given an essay prompt requiring you to review the course material. Think of it as a one-question open-book final exam that you have two hours to do. Evaluation will be on the basis of clarity of argument, use of examples, and organization of material.

423-470 points = A

376-422 points = B

320-375 points = C

273-319 points = D

272-below = F

### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless you can document a major life disruption such as hospitalization, death in the immediate family, or court appearance. We all are busy and most people work even when not feeling well.

**[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

**<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit <https://www.mclennan.edu/disability/>.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you

or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.