McLennan
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

History of Religions II

PHIL_1317_87 & 88

DR. JEFFREY TAYLOR

NOTE: This is a 6-week course.

Course Description: This is the State of Texas Description and so is generic to cover all possibilities. This class covers Christianity only.

"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 only. The book listed below is required

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Dr. Jeff Taylor
Message me through Brightspace using the Messages (click on the envelope at the top of the page) I usually will reply within 24 hours.
MCC E-mail (use only if Brightspace is down): jtaylor@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (580)585-7661 (personal cell) **I do not text**. Please do not call after 9pm CDT.
Office Location: online
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: messages usually answered within 24 hours
Other Instruction Information: once the class begins students should

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

MCC Bookstore Website

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, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

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 contacted/notified through 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.

*** Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace**
(https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)
Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:
Examples: Lecture, discussion groups, group projects, field trips, lab exercises, projects, service learning assignments, student performances/presentations, portfolio, written reports/papers, exams, quizzes, simulators, and/or tutorial software.

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 = 20 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.

Christian Art 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.

410-460 points = A

360-409 points = B

310-359 points = C

260-309 points = D

259-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 guidelines specific to this course.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

- We will practice responsibility. Check the announcements at least every other day. Keep track yourself of the Assignment Schedule.
- We will practice responsibility. Assignments are due on time. Extensions may be granted only for documented major life disruptions.
- We will practice mutual respect. There will be no personal attacks on the discussion boards. We will discuss issues rationally and calmly, not engage in rudeness. All points of view will be respected, though remember that in an academic setting your point of view may be questioned and debated in a rational manner. (It is better if you write "I think" rather than "I feel.") A student's religious viewpoint will have no effect on grading.

If I judge you to be rude or disrespectful toward class members, or me, I will warn you and try to help you develop the skills needed for discussion. If you persist in rudeness or personal attacks I reserve the right to bar you from discussion groups. This will cause you to forfeit that part of your grade.

- We will practice honesty. The work we turn in will be our own. We will not cheat on quizzes nor plagiarize. Either one, or both, are grounds for an F. (Studying together is good. Talking about assignments together is good. Taking quizzes together is bad. Writing assignments together is bad. Using someone else's essay as your own, perhaps from the internet, is bad.)

We will practice responsibility. If it becomes necessary for you to withdraw from class, it is your responsibility to drop officially by contacting the Instructor. Failure to participate in class for three consecutive assignments and/or quizzes will result in the student being dropped, unless the student contacts the Instructor with a documented reason for non-participation

*** Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement**
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu
254-299-8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

*** Click Here for more information about Title IX**
(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)
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 or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/) 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.

* *You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*