

Philosophy 1D

World Religions

Fall 1998

drop deadline

Instructor: **Leonard Olson**

Voice Mail: **3893**

e-mail: leonard.olson@ccc-infonet.edu

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the various major religious traditions of the world.

Texts: *The Ways of Religion*, edited by Roger Eastman
The Future of an Illusion, by Sigmund Freud

Grading: Grades will be based on the following variables:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Subjective Essays	20%
Two Midterm Exams (20% each)	40%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	10%

Grading Variables Explained:

*** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. The class format is lecture-discussion, and students are expected to participate in these discussions.

*** The subjective essays are reflective papers in which you are asked to explore your personal reactions to the material in the assigned readings and/or lectures. Specific topics will be suggested, but you are encouraged to write on any related issue of interest to you.

Philosophy 1D

World Religions

Research Paper Instructions

On any religious topic of your choosing, critically compare and contrast the positions of two (or more) of the major religions we have studied this semester. The topics may be theological (e.g., the nature of God, the concept of sin, etc.); liturgical (e.g., the use of music, styles of prayer, etc.); sociological (e.g., attitudes about sex, attitudes about war, etc.); or historical (e.g., Jews and Muslims in 12th century Spain).

To compare and contrast well, it is necessary to give fairly detailed and precise accounts of the subject matter; and the same point must be brought up on both sides. If you are comparing Christian and Hindu styles of prayer, and you make the point that Christians traditionally kneel when they pray, then you should also mention the prayer position that Hindus traditionally assume. Because a good research paper contains a lot of specific detail, it is important to avoid picking too general of a topic.

The deeper you go into a topic, the more questions it should raise in your own mind as to **why** these religions do these things in the way they do, especially when you find that there are substantial differences between them. The "critical" aspect of the paper involves exploring these reasons, and offering explanations and speculations.

You may use a writing format of your own choice (MLA, etc.). Papers will not be graded for spelling or grammar; papers will be graded for coherency which can be effected by poor spelling, and especially poor grammar. A good research paper requires looking at several sources; I would like to see a bibliography page with at least **three** different sources cited for **each** of the religions discussed in your paper. And please make sure that references are complete, with author, full title, date and place of publication. {Internet sources are acceptable, but be very cautious when dealing with unfamiliar material; there is a lot of bizarre propaganda floating around out there!!} Direct quotations, although not required, are always appropriate, but make sure that they are clearly cited.

A project of this sort invariably reflects the amount of work you put into it!!

Papers should be three to eight pages; typed, double-spaced. Papers should have a cover sheet, and your name should appear on the cover sheet **ONLY**. No plastic or cardboard folders, please. Papers are due at the beginning of class, Thursday, November 19th; but extensions may be granted for legitimate reasons.