

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Fall 2009

PROFESSOR RANDY FIRESTONE

Professor's email: randyfirestone@verizon.net

Professor's Office: SOCS 213A **Phone:** 310-660-3593x3762

Professor's Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:31 - 1: 30;

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00-9:30am

Required Texts: *The World's Religions*, revised and updated edition, by Huston Smith;

The World's Wisdom by Philip Novak;

Philosophy of Religion, 5th edition, by Louis Pojman.

Recommended Book: *Comparing and Evaluating the Scriptures*, 2008, Summerland Publishing, ISBN#

13: 978-0-9795444-3-9, by Paul Fink

Course General Objectives:

1. To learn about the world's major religions;
2. To question and reflect upon our beliefs about our own religion;
3. To appreciate and respect the beliefs of others regarding religion, whether they are Buddhist, Muslim, of another faith, agnostic, or atheist.

SLO: When presented with various philosophical problems related to religious doctrines, students will be able to analyze and evaluate these problems in light of the major philosophical approaches and positions they have studied.

Grading: 8 units at 12.5% each

1 st 5 Exams (12 ½% each):	62.5%
Final Exam (worth 2 exams/units)	25 %
<u>Homework, Attendance, Class Presentation & Participation:</u>	<u>12.5%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Exams: You will need to bring a scantron form 882 ES to the first 5 exams, and a blue book for the final exam. If you miss an exam, please contact me immediately in order to schedule a make-up exam. You will probably be penalized 2/3 of a grade. For example, an "A" would be reduced to a "B+".

Homework: Prepare at least a 2 page summary for each subject's reading. These are due when we begin that subject. Late homework will not be accepted unless you missed that class.

Attendance: Attendance counts. This is not a correspondence course. If you miss more than 6 classes, you cannot take the final exam without my permission.

Class Presentation: On the last day of class, you will make a class presentation where you will tell the class what you have learned and how you have changed or are changing your ideas, beliefs and/or actions as a result of this course. This is a celebration of our journey together, and we will clap after each presentation.

Respect: We will be talking about sensitive and emotional issues, and you are expected to be respectful to the instructor and other students. I welcome any suggestions you may have for me that would help you learn or otherwise aid you.

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El Camino READINGS & HOMEWORK: Fall 2009
PROFESSOR RANDY FIRESTONE: Class Mon, Wed & Fri

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 2) *The World's Wisdom* by Philip Novak; 3) *Philosophy of Religion*, fifth edition, by Louis
 Pojman

Recommended Book: *Comparing and Evaluating the Scriptures*, 2008, Summerland
 Publishing, ISBN# 13: 978-0-9795444-3-9, by Paul Fink

DATE	SUBJECT	PHILOSOPHERS	Book: Chapters; Pgs
Aug 31	Intro		
Sep 2	Intro		
Sep 4	Taoism		Req: Novak, ch.4, pgs 145-174; Rec: Smith, ch 5, pgs 196-220
Sept 7	<i>Labor Day: No Class</i>		
Sept 9	Taoism		
Sept 11	Taoism		
Sept 14	Taoism		
Sept 16	Taoism		
Sept 18	<u>Test #1 on Taoism</u>		
Sept 21	Confucianism		Req: Novak, ch 3, 111-144 Rec: Smith, ch 4, 154-195
Sept 23	Confucianism		
Sept 25	Confucianism		
Sep 28	Confucianism		
Sep 30	Confucianism		
Oct 2	<u>Test #2 on Confucianism</u>		
Oct 5	Hinduism		Req: Smith. ch 2, pgs 12-81 Rec: Novak, ch 1, pgs 1-23
Oct 7	Hinduism		
Oct 9	Hinduism		
Oct 12	Hinduism		Req: Novak, ch 1, pgs 24-39
Oct 14	<u>Test #3 on Hindusim</u>		
Oct 16	Buddhism		Req: Novak, ch 2, pgs 49-109 Rec: Smith, ch 3, pgs 82-153
Oct 19	Buddhism		
Oct 21	Buddhism		
Oct 23	Buddhism		
Oct 26	<u>Test #4 on Buddhism</u>		
Oct 28	Islam		Req: Novak, ch 7, 281-332 Rec: Smith, ch 6, 221-270
Oct 30	Islam		

Nov 2	Islam		
Nov 4	Comparing Religions		
Nov 6	<u>Test #5 on Islam & Comparisons of Religions</u>		
Nov 9	Arguments for God's Existence		
Nov 11	Why the Bible Cannot and Should Not be Taken Literally	Firestone/Fink	Req: Firestone <u>handout</u> Rec: Paul Fink: <i>Comparing and Evaluating the Scriptures</i>
Nov 13	<i>VETERAN'S DAY</i> <i>No Class</i>		
Nov 16	Why people want to believe in God; Do we have souls?	Freud; Russell	Pojman, pgs 114-119; 329-332, 336-338
Nov 18	Cosmological Argument	Aquinas; Clarke; Edwards	Pojman, pgs 9-23
Nov 20	Teleological Argument	Paley; Hume	Pojman, pgs 51-63
Nov 23	Teleological Argument & Religion v. Science	Dawkins	<u>Handout</u>
Nov 25	Religious Pluralism	Hick	Pojman, pgs 509-516
Nov 27	<i>THANKSGIVING</i> <i>No Class</i>		
Nov 30	The Problem of Evil	Madden & Hare; Rowe	Pojman pgs 169-173; 200-203
Dec 2	The Problem of Evil	Hume; Dostoevsky; Hick	Pojman, pgs 143-152; 158-169
Dec 4	Miracles	Hume	Pojman, pgs 276-285
Dec 7	Religious Experience	Pojman	Pojman, pgs 127-136
Dec 9	Class Presentations		
Dec 11	Class Presentations		
Dec 14	Class Presentations/Review		
Dec 16	<u>Final Exam</u>		
Dec 18	<u>Final Exam</u>		