Instructor: Dr. Harry S. Coverston
Phones: (407) 823-2273 (leave message)
Office: Valencia Campus - OSC 4-234
Main Campus - PSY 227

Class Meeting: MWF sessions scheduled online,
Students are required to visit the course site each session

Hours: 4-6 pm Tuesday Osceola Campus
1-3 pm Fridays, Main Campus

Virtual Office Hours (Weeknights, 10 PM)
- this means I check coursemails by 10 p.m.

Course Description: REL 3553 CAH-PHIL 3(3,0) Christianity: PR: HUM 2230, REL 2300, or C.I. This course focuses on the main themes of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as found in the teachings of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. It will then examine these historical traditions in context of modern day Israel. Occasional. (UCF Catalogue 2014-15)

This is NOT a GORDON RULE class

Course Objectives

1. To gain a historically informed understanding of the persons of Moses, Jesus of Nazareth, and Muhammad, their lives and their impact on their immediate culture.

2. To understand how the movements around each of these persons developed into world religions.

3. To gain a detailed understanding of the development of the institutions, beliefs, values and practices in these developing traditions.

4. To examine these histories through the lens of the expressive humanities – art, music, architecture, literature, drama, film – as well as the reflective humanities – religion and philosophy.
5. To gain an understanding of how the movements of these three religious figures manifest themselves today in the context of modern day Israel.
6. To examine the interactions and conflicts between those three traditions in the context of modern day Israel.

**Practical Skills Developed**

Students will develop and practice the following skills in this course which are applicable in a wide range of careers:

1. **THINKING:**
   - Development of **critical analysis**, questioning of presumptions, awareness of one's own hermeneutical lens;
   - Development of expansive thought, developing data into knowledge through understanding the context, subtext and significance of ideas;
   - Development of **problem solving skills** through creative, synthetic thought which applies knowledge through expressions unique to the individual.

2. **EXPRESSION:**
   - Development of student's ability to **write at college level** (Gordon Rule requirement)
   - Development of ability to construct and defend logical arguments to support positions
   - Development of ability to express ideas through multi-media technologies and non-verbal expressions
   - Development of student's ability to express ideas in group and class discussions

3. **INTERACTIVE:**
   - Development of ability to work with other individuals and as a member of a group

**Required Texts:**


Materials for Israel portion of the class are linked to the Schedule.
NOTE: All textbooks are required by the end of the first week of classes. Deadlines for assignments will not be extended.

Ground Rules - ALL STUDENTS MUST READ THESE! Your continued presence in this class after the add/drop period constitutes your consent to be bound by these ground rules. The preliminary quiz is based in part on these rules.

- Withdrawal Deadline: It is this instructor's desire and intent that every student complete this course in good standing. However, should it become necessary for the student to withdraw, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course prior to the deadline on Monday, October 27, 11:59 PM.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course has only two components:

I. WRITING

Beginning/Ending Assignments

1. Beginning Assignments - Hermeneutical Lens Assignment (includes self-introduction post) - 20 points possible

2. Ending Assignments - Summary Reflection Paper - (includes engagement self-evaluation) - 30 points possible

TOTAL = 50 Points

II. Exams (all Essay, open book, open note) @ 50 points

The top two scores of Exams 1, 2 and 3 will be recorded along with Exam 4. Four Exams must be taken. Students who do not complete all four exams will record the 0 for the missing exam as one of their three scores.

TOTAL = 150 Points
**EXTRA CREDIT** — Extra Credit is built into this course with additional questions on exams. Students who complete the extra questions can earn up to a half letter grade in extra credit points in this manner.

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 200**

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**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior, far exceeds average understanding as evidenced in course work and goes significantly beyond the basics.</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Excellent, exceeds average understanding as evidenced in course work and goes well beyond the basics.</td>
<td>90-94.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Far above average, meets or exceeds average understanding as evidenced in course work and fully understands the basics and goes somewhat beyond that level.</td>
<td>87-89.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Far above average, fully meets average understanding as evidenced in course work and fully understands the basics and can deal with concepts somewhat beyond that level.</td>
<td>84-86.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Just above average, fully meets expectations for basic understanding as evidenced in coursework and fully understands the basics and can deal with concepts at that level.</td>
<td>80-83.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Slightly above average, fully meets expectations for basic understanding as evidenced in coursework and understands the basics.</td>
<td>77-79.x%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average, meets minimum expectations and satisfies course requirements.</td>
<td>74-76.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Slightly below average, meets bare minimum expectations and satisfies course requirements.</td>
<td>70-73.x%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Below average, meets most minimum expectations and satisfies all or most course requirements.</td>
<td>67-69.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average, meets many minimum expectations and satisfies all or most course requirements.</td>
<td>64-66.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Far below average, but meets most minimum expectations and satisfies most course requirements with minimal understanding evidenced in course work.</td>
<td>60-63.x%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fails to meet minimum expectations in understanding and course work as evidenced by performance and submission of graded elements.</td>
<td>0-59.x%</td>
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All borderline cases will be decided upon engagement grades at discretion of instructor.

**Final Comments:** If something arises unexpectedly that will affect your attendance and/or performance in this class, please contact the instructor. While your instructor is a fairly understanding man, he’s a lousy mind reader. To be human means to face unexpected
problems, illness and the death of loved ones. That includes all of us and we can generally work through such problems together. The worst thing you can do in such situations is simply disappear.

Any departure from this syllabus is in the discretion of the instructor. Any class-wide changes in syllabus requirements or scheduling will occur with notice to students.