

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**Humanities**  
**Revision Date: 07-01-19**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Course Number: PHIL2650  
Course Title: Philosophy of Religion  
Prerequisite(s): Eligible for ENGL1010  
Catalog Description: Students will be introduced to classical and contemporary efforts to address such critical questions as (1) whether beliefs frequently associated with religion (e.g., belief in a divine being, belief in miracles, belief in an afterlife, etc.) are logically coherent, justifiable, and rationally reconcilable with other widely held beliefs (e.g., that evil exists, that natural law is universal, that modern science dependably advances human knowledge, that the human will is truly free, etc.), (2) whether a meaningful morality must be grounded in religion, and (3) whether more than one recognized religion can be generally correct.

Credit hours: 3.0  
Class Hours: 45  
Lab Hours: 0  
Contact Hours: 45

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:** *Course will:*

- A. Expose students to scholarly efforts (in such forms as Instructor lectures, assigned readings, student presentations, audio and/or video materials, etc.) to clarify concepts central to careful understanding of religion and to defend or refute theses relating to religious belief systems.
- B. Discern arguments and conceptual analyses contained in presented materials.
- C. Raise questions regarding presented materials, and respond to similar questions raised by others, in focused discussion and/or in-class writing.
- D. Consider objectively and impartially elements of religious perspectives that may be incompatible with one another, and perhaps with the student's own.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
  - 1. Identify elements within various religious worldviews that potentially present obstacles to the rational acceptance of those worldviews.
  - 2. Present in an organized way, orally and in writing, scholarly efforts to clarify and remove such obstacles to rational religious belief.
  - 3. Critically assess such scholarly efforts at clarification and rational justification.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
  - 1. GELO #2: Written Communication
    - Outcome: Comprehend, analyze, and evaluate a given text.
    - Outcome: Develop a focused thesis statement and write with a clear purpose, using relevant examples, claims, and evidence.
  - 2. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
    - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
    - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.
    - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.

**IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (course outline may provide more detailed information)**

- A. The Concept of God
- B. Traditional Arguments for the Existence of God
- C. Religious Experience
- D. The Problem of Evil
- E. Miracles
- F. Death and Immortality
- G. Faith and Reason
- H. Science, Religion, and Evolution
- I. Religious Pluralism

**V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Required Text(s):
  - 1. Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, et al., *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-19-930344-1.
- B. Other Resources:
  - 1. Hand-outs, audio/video materials and other resources supplied by the instructor.
  - 2. Outside reading/research as determined by the instructor.

**VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION**

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:
  - 1. Lectures
  - 2. Multimedia presentations
  - 3. Group discussions
  - 4. Assigned writing
  - 5. Classmate collaborations
  - 6. Research
  - 7. Peer response
  - 8. Computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods
  - 9. Field trips

**VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:
  - 1. Class and group participation.
  - 2. Daily work.
  - 3. Exams.
  - 4. Presentations, projects, papers and/or a portfolio.

The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.
- B. SCC GRADING SCALE

|    |        |    |       |   |            |
|----|--------|----|-------|---|------------|
| A+ | 95-100 | C+ | 75-79 | F | 59 or less |
| A  | 90-94  | C  | 70-74 |   |            |
| B+ | 85-89  | D+ | 65-69 |   |            |
| B  | 80-84  | D  | 60-64 |   |            |

**VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. In order to receive a passing grade, students must complete all work assigned by the instructor and attend class within instructor guidelines.
- B. Instructor will supply supplemental hand-outs, audio/video/online materials
- C. Instructor will determine outside reading/research as well as content, assessment and schedule.