

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course  
 (check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Philosophy 105  
 Philosophy of Religion

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**COREQUISITE:** None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

A critical consideration of selected perennial and modern problems: definition and role of religion and religious experience, mysticism, grounds for religious beliefs, and religious ethics. Students will be urged to evaluate critically their views of religion and their own religious beliefs. Both Eastern and Western religions will be considered.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful student will:

1. demonstrate a clear and general concept of religion.
2. demonstrate a concept of its relation to other aspects of life (science, art, politics, etc.).
3. explain these concepts and apply relevant principles.
4. apply the critical analysis technique of philosophical inquiry to religion.
5. critically evaluate the internal consistency and validity of religious claims.
6. evaluate his or her own stance in regard to religious questions.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. What is the philosophy of religion?
  - A. Philosophic Method
  - B. Definitions of Philosophy and Definitions of Religion
- II. Religious Language
  - A. Theories of Religious Meaning

- B. Religion and Science
- C. Classical Arguments for the Existence of God

III. Problems of Evil

- A. Hume's Argument
- B. Later Theories
- C. Asian Answers

IV. Mysticism

- A. Definitions of Mysticism
- B. Psychological Theories
- C. Meditation and Mystic Awareness

**REQUIRED READING:**

The instructor may select textbooks and/or primary sources (in translation, if necessary). Examples follow:

Hick, John. Philosophy of Religion. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. The Grand Inquisitor. New York: Continuum, 1981.

Pascal, Blaise. The Thoughts of Blaise Pascal. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1978.

Gibran, Kahlil. The Prophet. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962.

Hume, David. Dialogue Concerning Natural Religion and the Natural History of Religion. New York: Prometheus, 1989.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

A characteristic option that may be assigned by the instructor:

Runes, Dagobert D., ed. Dictionary of Philosophy. Lanham, MD: Littlefield, 1984.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

Written demonstration of philosophical skills will be required. The following is one option:

1. Six one-page writing assignments requiring application of critical thinking skills to selected issues in the philosophy of religion.
2. Four essay tests (see below: grading policy and standards)

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.**

1. Complete writing assignments

2. Complete reading assignments
3. Study lecture notes

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

**Check all that apply:**

- lecture  
 laboratory  
 lecture-laboratory combination  
 directed study

**DISTANCE LEARNING:**

**This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes  No

**If yes, check all that apply.**

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)  
 Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)  
 Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)  
 One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)  
 Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

The writing assignments described above could be weighted in different ways. One option is this: 20% for each essay test and 4% for each of the best five of six one-page writing assignments. Criteria for evaluation for the writing assignments may include: clarity, consistency, sensitivity to the pros and cons of the philosophic issues, and ability in applying critical thinking skills.

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit:   1  

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:** Zachary Seech X2650

<b>SIGNATURES ON FILE</b>
---------------------------