Pima Community College – East Campus

PHI 140: Philosophy of Religion
REL 140: Philosophy of Religion
Fall 2006, CRN: 12858, 12860, Three (3) credit hours
Prerequisite(s): None
Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:40 – 12:55 in E2 209

Instructor: David Henry
E-mail: david.henry@pima.edu
Cell phone number: 270-4444
Web Page: http://ecc.pima.edu/~dhenry
Office Hours: By appointment

Description and objectives: A general awareness of major issues in philosophy of religion. The class will take a broad sweep of philosophy in Western civilization. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of philosophical method.
2. Examine the meaning of the terms “religion” and “God.”
3. Review the classical arguments for and against the existence of God.
4. Explain the impact of religion on ethics, psychology, and law.
5. Examine faith and reason.
6. Summarize the impact of theodicy.
7. Analyze mysticism.

Outline:

I. Defining Religion
II. What is Philosophy of Religion?
III. Religious Experience
IV. Faith and Reason
V. What is God like?
VI. Arguments for the Existence of God
VII. The Problem of Evil
VIII. Miracles
IX. Life after Death
X. Religion and Science
XI. Religious Diversity

Important Dates:

Monday, September 4  Labor Day – No Class
Monday, December 4  Written Research Paper Due

Textbook:  Good Ideas from Questionable Christians and Outright Pagans, Steve Wilkens

Excerpts and Reading Assignments will be handed out for the following in class:

Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis
The Question of God, Armand Nicholi
Why I Am Not A Christian, Bertrand Russell
Requirements:

- Exam 1: Defining Religion
- Exam 2: What is Philosophy of Religion?
- Exam 3: Religious Experience
- Exam 4: Faith and Reason
- Exam 5: What is God Like?
- Exam 6: Arguments for the Existence of God
- Exam 7: The Problem of Evil
- Exam 8: Pascal’s Wager

Biographical Presentation: A two to four page paper will be presented to the class orally. The subject can be a major philosopher of the student’s choice or one will be assigned. Be concise reporting only major writings the and main contributions to philosophy.

Written Research Paper: A four to seven page research paper covering a stellar figure, school of thought, or era of time significant to philosophy is to be handed in at the end of the semester. Cite references correctly. The subject must be approved by the instructor.

Home work Assignments: Homework questions and reading assignments are handed out during class requiring a one sheet typed response. If all the assignments are turned in (including reading assignments) and the grade is a “B” grade or better, a final Written Research Paper grade credit becomes 100% without turning it in at the end of the semester. This paper can still be completed for additional credit.

Reading Response: Reading assignments will be given throughout the semester. Reflect on a topic or issue using no more than one page, double-spaced, typed, citing all references and quotations. The student’s opinion in response to the author’s writing is encouraged.

Grading:
- Exams 25%
- Combined Quiz Grades 25%
- Homework Assignments and Reading Responses 30%
- Oral Biographical Presentation 10%
- Written Research Paper 10%

Attendance: Because this is a “lecture” class, regular attendance is required. Students who miss a class session are responsible for getting the notes from another student. When a student arrives late to class, it is his or her responsibility to inform the instructor after class that he or she was present.

Makeup Work: NO UNEXCUSED MAKEUP WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. All absences must be considered in advance. An “Incomplete” for this class will be highly unlikely.

ADA: Pima Community College strives to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Reasonable accommodations, including materials in alternative formats, are available to qualified students with appropriate disability documentation. To obtain accommodations a student must register with a campus Disabled Student Resources (DSR) Office. The student may then obtain authorization for specific accommodations and services. All disability-related information will be kept confidential. The East Campus DSR Office is located in the Library/Student Center room L-231 and their phone number is 206-7699.