



UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO
SCHOOL: CIENCIAS SOCIALES Y HUMANIDAD.
COURSE: FIL 3408E - Philosophy of Religion

COURSE DETAILS:

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Verify prerequisites in Banner academic system.

Co requirements: The course does not have Co requirements

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is the difference between Buddhist meditation and Christian prayer? Are some images of divinity healthier than others? What is the difference between being religious and being spiritual? Do religions cause violence? Is comparative mythology a spiritual practice? This course will address two central themes: the science of religion and a comparative analysis of religious symbology of water. In recent years, the dialogue between science and religion has been energized by new discoveries in neuroscience, neurochemistry and physiology which reveal the effects of different religious practices in the brain and the body. Religious practices and religious thinking can alter brain structures; they can affect memory and concentration, change levels of stress in the body, slow down the process of aging, modify one's overall health, and improve one's level of happiness and sense of wellbeing. Studies have shown that silent prayer makes use of different brain components than does praying out loud, that mystical experiences and religious epiphanies have a physical component, and how the use of different sights, sounds and smells in religious rituals can alter serotonin and dopamine levels in the brain. In the first half of the course we will take a comparative approach to explore the effects of religious practice and religious thinking on the body and the brain. In the second half of the course we will explore how water is understood and used within various traditions and practices. This class is designed to be a kind of think tank for creative thought in relation to the upcoming multi-museum exhibit in Quito: Espiritualidades y Religiosidades

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COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

#	Learning Outcomes	Level
1	Analyze religious practices in Quito.	Medio
2	Practice exercises in communities of different spiritualities that show the domain of neuro scientific tools	Medio
3	Build interdisciplinary discussion group comparative methods from the philosophy of religion.	Medio



COURSE CONTENTS:

- Why Philosophy of Religion is Important
- Neuroscience and Spirituality (Newberg & Waldman)
- Meditation and Brain Plasticity
- East & West spiritual practices compared
- Entheogens and Religious Experience
- Varieties of Spiritual Experiences
- Children's spirituality
- Psychological and Spiritual development
- Children's spirituality & Brain development
- Mysticism and Spiritual Personalities
- Fundamentalism`
- Religious Violence with Jones, "Why Does Religion Turn Violent?"
- Contemporary spirituality with Sam Harris, Spiritual But Not Religious
- Negative theology at St. John of the Cross,
- Comparative mythology at ?Joseph Campbell, Masks of God
- Comparative Theology
- The nature of theological language at McGrath, "The Nature of Theological Language"

METHODOLOGY FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONTENTS:

The teaching methodology used to teach all the course at USFQ follow the liberal arts philosophy: encourage dialogue and enable the learning construction through providing opportunities for ideas exchange among teachers and students. It is expected that all the theoretical content courses explore potential applications to the professional practice and work context where students are anticipated to perform through the integration of diverse activities and simulations that foster the contextualized understanding of concepts using reality and professional practice as frames of reference.

HOURS DESCRIPTION OF APPLIED PRACTICE

If this course has declared applied practice hours (laboratories, exercises, field trips, practicums, etc.); the instructor for the theoretical element is responsible for describing how the applied practices hours will be fulfilled and assessed during the semester.

Students must pass or fail both the theoretical and application practice components simultaneously.

All courses with declared applied practice hours must provide students with a written guide detailing the requirements for fulfilling the application practice component.



COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Each instructor is responsible for creating an evaluation scheme that corresponds to the learning outcomes declared for each course. The assessment scheme should be presented in a clear and direct manner, such as a chart that indicates the assessment categories and the elements included in each category; it must indicate the total weight that each category will have on the final grade. Category weights may vary, but under no circumstance can an individual element weigh more than 25% of the final grade. For example, it is acceptable for a "Homework" category to weigh 30% if it includes three tasks that weight 10% each. However, a "Final Exam" category that weighs 30% and only includes one element would be unacceptable.

Some academic areas or specific courses have pre-established assessment parameters. In these cases, all instructors assigned to these courses must follow the pre-determined scheme.

If this course has declared applied practice hours (laboratories, exercises, field trips, practicums, etc.) the assessment of these hours must be incorporated within the course's general assessment scheme.

#	Category	Description	Percentage of final grade

MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY:

[The main bibliography must be in library in physical or digital format]

- Campbell, Joseph, *The masks of god* /, New York: The Viking Press, 1974
- Rowe, William L., *Philosophy of Religion* /, Florida: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989

COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY:

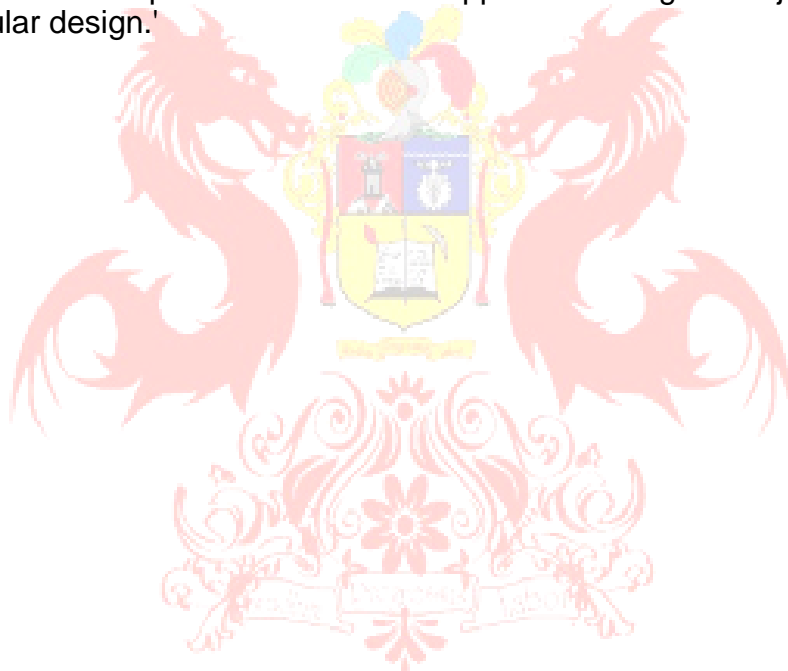
[The complementary bibliography can be digital format]



POLICIES:

All students taking courses at USFQ must follow the ethics of learning, ethics of research and ethics of behavior rules detailed in the [USFQ's Code of Honor and Coexistence](#). All the general policies for the courses offered at USFQ are detailed in the Student's Manual, it can be downloaded in [Manual del Estudiante](#).

This syllabus (Syllabus) was reviewed and approved by the coordination of the academic area or department responsible, so all the parallels that are dictated must be governed by this program. If changes / adjustments to the study program are necessary, you should To the coordination of the academic area or department responsible so that the approved changes / adjustments are reflected in the system of Curricular design.'



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