

 **P**hilosophy

and

 **R**eligion

Fall 2008 courses
Truman State University

Coming soon to a classroom near you...

Fall 2008 PHRE 100-level courses

PHRE 185 Exploring Religions

PHRE 185 as taught by Ashcraft [PR]

This course analyzes and interprets religious traditions. Lectures parallel and supplement assigned readings. A field trip is required.

PHRE 185 as taught by Daschke [PR]

This course is a "linked course" with a Truman Week section of ENG 190: Writing as Critical Thinking. Enrollment will mainly be limited to those cross-enrolled in both courses. Consult instructor for permission to override this restriction. It will focus on using writing as a means to think critically about contemporary and classic issues in the doctrines, texts, ethics, experiences, and social makeup of the world's religious traditions.

PHRE 185 as taught by Hsieh [PR]

Introduction to the history, literature, doctrines and practices of major religious traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Fundamental characteristics of religion include the meaning of human existence, the concept of life after death, the sacred and the profane, faith, myth, symbol, and ritual. Lecture, with group discussion, oral report, and audio-visual presentations.

PHRE 185 as taught by Pflueger [PR]

This course introduces the study of major world religions with emphasis on non-Western religions. Our goal is to achieve an empathetic appreciation and wider understanding of religions, both their historical development and their aspects: myth, ritual, doctrine, ethics, symbols, communal structure, and individual experience. Fieldwork demonstrates growing ability to understand religion as a phenomenon in the real world.

PHRE 186 Introduction to Philosophy

PHRE 186 as taught by Alexander [PR; WE]

Students grapple with important philosophical questions: How should we live? What can we know? What is real? We engage in close reading of historically significant texts, placing them in contemporary multicultural context. Students hone skills of understanding, criticism, and speculation. Classroom practice emphasizes informal lecture and open or small group discussion. Evaluation based on class membership, activities, papers, and exams.

PHRE 187 Logic

PHRE 187 as taught by Burton or Pollard [PR]

Logic is the study of reasoning. By the end of this course, each student should have acquired (1) an appreciation for the precise use of language, (2) the ability to recognize the most common fallacies, and (3) a grasp of the logical structure underlying valid arguments.

PHRE 188 Ethics

PHRE 188 as taught by Appold [PR]

Recognizing the multivalent character of the study of ethics, this course addresses multiple ethical theories and applications. We examine the classical paradigms of relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, and deontology and explore various virtue theories inquiring into issues of rights, gender, justice, war and peace, dying, personhood, and authentic living. In order to relate these questions to real life applications, copious use is made of literature, storytelling, film, and media reports in addition to the standard classical treatises on ethics.

PHRE 188 as taught by Murphy [PR]

We study several theories of ethics, focusing on Aristotelian, Kantian, and Utilitarian positions. Also, we discuss topics such as abortion and world hunger. There are three examinations, two papers, and a class presentation based on one of the papers.

Fall 2008 PHRE upper-level courses

PHRE 303 Judaism [GH, PR, IN]

Students will be introduced to the varieties of Jewish life in today's world and in history, grounded in an understanding of the foundational texts, beliefs, and practices of Ancient Judaism. They will also become familiar with the divisions within Judaism and what is at stake for Jewish identity – and the future of Judaism itself – in these conflicts.

Instructor: Daschke

PHRE 312 Japanese Traditions [PR;GH]

A survey of Japanese religious traditions, including Shinto, Confucianism, Buddhism, popular folk religions, and "New religions." We will read significant texts of each religion, and understand the development of each religious tradition in a larger social context. In addition, we will also focus on the interaction between Shinto, Buddhism, and Confucianism and discuss their impact on Japanese art, literature, way of thinking, and people's daily lives. Through lecture, discussion, and occasional audio-visual presentations, the course is aimed at understanding what religion has meant for Japanese people and what role religion has played in Japanese culture and society.

Instructor: Hsieh

PHRE 336 History of Philosophy I: Ancient [PR; GH]

This course will study the doctrines and arguments of the Pre-socratics, Plato, and Aristotle with emphasis on their various views regarding the following questions: What is the nature of the

universe? Is knowledge possible and, if so, what are the proper objects of knowledge? What is the good and how may persons attain it?

Instructor: Burton

PHRE 345 The Mystical Vision [PR]

One common thread in the religions of the world is the persistent claim that some individuals have had direct experience of union with the Ultimate, *the mystical vision, Enlightenment*. What did they experience? How can their reports be evaluated, studied and explained? This course dives into such questions with the help of careful reading and discussion of the writing of selected past and present mystics from a variety of cultures. What is enlightenment? Students join the conversation and present their own research.

Instructor: Pflueger

PHRE 348 Jesus of Nazareth [WE]

Dimensions of both the pre-Easter and the post-Easter Jesus are examined in the light of the primary N.T. texts against the background of their respective historical, situational, and cultural contexts. Also studied are the pertinent non-canonical and apocryphal texts that help illuminate historical Jesus research. Recent and past scholarship in the interdisciplinary quest for the historical Jesus will be addressed as well as the transcendent yet incarnational place of Jesus in the story of the Church and in the history of culture and society.

Instructor: Appold

PHRE 365 Method & Theory in Religious Studies

In this course we will survey several theoretical approaches to the study of religion to understand religious belief, community, and practice. Designed for students with previous coursework in philosophy or religion. Especially helpful for majors planning to write about religion in the senior seminar.

Instructor: Ashcraft

PHRE 382 Philosophy of Mathematics [PR]

What are mathematical objects (functions, sets, algebraic structures, etc.)? Are mathematical objects products of human mental activity, or do they exist independently of us? Under what conditions are mathematical statements true? Might mathematical statements be neither true nor false? Is mathematics merely a branch of logic? Can any of these questions be answered in a course on the philosophy of mathematics?

Instructor: Pollard

PHRE 386 Studies in Philosophy and Religion: Ethics and Emotions

Many think emotions should play at most a limited role in ethics. At the same time, emotions often figure importantly in standard treatments of pivotal topics like happiness and altruism. Attempting to adjudicate conflicting viewpoints regarding ethics and emotions requires taking on a challengingly diverse array of topics. We cannot but focus on the question of what an emotion is, famously addressed by William James. We need to make forays into moral psychology as we consider questions concerning child development, what might motivate those who are said to lack a conscience, and the nature of decision-making. Establishing some ethical theories as recurring points of reference leads to analyzing what Aristotle, Kant, and Mill say about emotions. Were Stoics as antagonistic towards emotions as often reputed? What to make of proposals which stress emotions, such as those of David Hume and Carol Gilligan? What's the relation of Christian love

and Buddhist compassion to ethics and emotions? Applied ethics pertains as well, for instance, when Leon Kass, writing about cloning, purports that repugnance can be wise. Jesse Prinz's The Emotional Construction of Ethics serves as a touchstone throughout the course.

Your grade will be based on your informed participation, as well as your level of performance on quizzes, exams, and in two papers and presentations.

Instructor: Murphy

PHRE 441: The Hebrew Scriptures: Story and Faith

The study of the theological, historical, and archeological dimensions of the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) provides a comprehensive entry into the story of ancient Israel from primal history, the exodus and the confederacy through the period of the monarchies, the captivity and the return. The complex web of traditions and conflicts intertwined with the religious, political, and social conditions of the day is traced in the light of the interaction between faith and history, the underlying meaning of the texts, and the critique of contemporary as well as earlier biblical scholarship.

Instructor: Appold

PHRE 462: Readings: Postmodern Selves

A seminar focusing on the contemporary concepts of the "self" being developed within current postmodern scholarship.

Who am I? What is the origin of the "self"? If there is no fixed, a-historical, individual human nature, how is it that our identities are forged? What is the role of gender, race, ethnicity, and other social institutions in forging personal and social identity? And what about autonomy, freedom, agency, and the sense of having a 'voice' through which to express my personal and social identity? In addition to major works from classic post-modern writers Derrida, Foucault, and Irigaray, we will read shorter classic works, for example from DeLeuze, Kristeva, Cixous or others, and contemporary multi-cultural major or shorter works, for example from, Butler, Groz, Lingus, Said, Gatens, Oliver, Gordon. Other American authors whose works I may use include Judith Butler, Kelly Oliver, Ladelle McWhortner, and Lewis Gordon. Seminar-style course features close reading, student presentations, and scholarly papers.

Instructor: Alexander

Other Fall 2008 courses taught by PHRE faculty...

ES 214 Elementary Ballet

This traditional ballet technique course is designed for all fitness levels and requires no background in dance. Special attention will be paid to alignment, appropriate adult flexibility, core strength, balanced leg strength, and foot articulation while moving to music from Purcell to Prokofiev. In addition to learning ballet terminology and basic Cecchetti technique, students will be given the opportunity to study, analyze, or create choreography.

Instructor: Burton

Liberal Studies Program:

Key to abbreviations:

PR= Fulfills Philosophy and Religion Mode	WE= Writing-Enhanced course
IN= Fulfills Intercultural Perspective	PRQ= Course with a prerequisite
GH= General Honors course	

Coming Attractions, Spring 2009

301	Christianity	M 7-9:40	Murphy
302	Islam	TTh 1:30	Appold
315	The Yoga Tradition	MWF 3:30	Pflueger
342	Symbolic Logic	MWF 10:30	Pollard
351	Feminist Social Philosophy	TTh 9:00	Alexander
354	Medieval Philosophy	TTh 12:00	Burton
355	Truth and Dialog	TTh 3:00	Alexander
362	Women in Buddhism	TTh 9:00	Hsieh
3xx	Dialog and Society	TTh 7:00 p.m.	Alexander
442	Understanding the New Testament	TTh 4:30	Appold
475	Senior Seminar	TTH 3:00	Daschke
ES 214	Elementary Ballet	MWF 10:30	Burton
JINS 346	Varieties of Non-Violence	TTh 1:30	Ashcraft

Coming Attractions, Summer 2009

MDST 300: Mideast Archaeological Dig and Study Tour
 Professor Appold
 May or June, 2009

Meet the PHRE Faculty...

Natalie Alexander

received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University and B.A. (*Magna cum Laude*) from Beloit College. She is a member of the American Philosophical Association, Society for Women in Philosophy, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, and Phi Beta Kappa. Her areas of emphasis include contemporary continental philosophy, feminist theory, and history of philosophy. Recent publications include "Rending Kant's Umbrella: Kofman's Diagnosis of Ethical Law" in *Enigmas: Collection of Essays on Sara Kofman*. and "Sublime Impersonation: the Rhetoric of Personification in Kant" in *Language and Liberation: Feminism, Philosophy, and Language*. Alexander's teaching emphasizes recognizing multiple viewpoints and thinking most clearly where we feel most strongly.

Mark Appold

received his Th.D. in New Testament under Ernst Käsemann from the University of Tübingen, Germany. His monograph on the oneness motif in the Fourth Gospel is published in the *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen z. N.T.* Recent publications focus on biblical, in particular Johannine, studies and archaeology. Papers in this area were presented at the International SBL meetings in Capetown (2000), Rome (2001), Cambridge (2003); Singapore (2005), Edinburgh (2006), Vienna (2007), and Auckland (2008). Following his undergraduate work at Concordia College in Milwaukee and undergraduate and graduate studies at Washington University in St. Louis, he received his M.Div from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. In addition to his 35-year tenure as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Center in Kirksville, he served in Washington, D.C. and in student ministry at Köln, Germany. As Visiting Professor he taught at the Nagercoil Seminary in India, the University of Iowa, Christ Seminary in St. Louis, and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, and serves as a project director with the Bethsaida Archaeological Excavation in Israel.

Mike Ashcraft

received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee at Martin, his M.Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. He specializes in the study of religions in American history and culture, with particular interest in gender and religion, new religious movements, African American religions, and theory and method in religious studies. He published *The Dawn of the New Cycle: Point Loma Theosophists and American Culture* in 2002. He and Dr. Daschke co-edited *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader* that was published in 2005. He serves on the board of editorial consultants for *Nova Religio: the Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*.

Patricia Burton

has been at Truman since 1987. Her areas of specialization are Logic and History of Philosophy. Her current research interests are (1) Philosophy of Dance and (2) Stoic influences on St. Augustine's doctrines of textual interpretation, aesthetics, and scientific inquiry. In 2002, she was the first recipient of the "Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship for Faculty Excellence." She had previously received the Educator of the Year Award (1994), the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1995), and the William O'Donnell Lee Advising Award (1995). Dr. Burton received her bachelor of arts degree in mathematics and her master's in philosophy from the University of Georgia; plus she received her doctorate in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a member of the American Philosophical Association, the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, the Medieval Academy of American, the North American Patristics Society, the National Dance Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi. She currently serves as the faculty advisor to numerous student organizations including the university's Society of Dance Arts (TSODA) and Pershing Society.

Dereck Daschke

is Chair of the Department of Philosophy & Religion. He received a master's degree and a doctorate degree in Divinity from The University of Chicago Divinity School, within the area of Psychology and Sociology of Religion. He also holds bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Daschke's areas of specialization include religion and the human sciences, Second Temple Judaism/intertestamental literature, apocalypticism and millennialism, and new religious movements. His research interests involve psychology and culture (particularly religion's relationships to health, media, and politics) and religion and health. He is co-editor of *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader* with Mike Ashcraft, and contributed the chapter "Millennial Destiny: A History of Millennialism in America" to the five-volume *Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in America* series. He is Secretary of the Delta of Missouri chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Ding-hwa Hsieh

received her B.A. in History, National Taiwan University, M.A. in History, U.C., Santa Barbara, and M.A. and Ph.D. in East Asian Studies at U.C., Los Angeles. She did her postdoctoral research at U.C., Berkeley and was a visiting scholar in Women's Studies Religion Program at Harvard Divinity School. She has contributed a chapter on "Images of Women in Ch'an Buddhist Literature" to *Buddhism in the Sung* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1999). Her paper "Buddhist Nuns in Sung China" is published in the *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 30 (2000). And she wrote articles on Chinese Buddhism for the *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2002) and the *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* (New York: MacMillan Reference, 2003). She is a member of American Academy of Religion, Association of Asian Studies, and National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Jennifer Jesse

holds a Ph.D. in religion and literature from the University of Chicago Divinity School, an M.Div. from Christian Theological Seminary, an M.A. in English literature from Butler University, and a B.A. in journalism from Kent State University. Her areas of specialization include historical, contemporary and constructive Christian thought; faith and reason; religion and literature; religion and science, and the works of William Blake. She has published articles on religion and science, historical and contemporary liberal religious thought in America, American public theology, radical empiricist epistemology, and Chicago School theologian Shailer Mathews in such journals as the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*; *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, and *Encounter*. She also has published dictionary entries and book chapters on radical empiricism, William Adams Brown, Shirley Jackson Case, and Bernard Meland, in the *Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers* (Thoemmes Press, 2004); *Pragmatism, Neo-Pragmatism, and Religion: Conversations with Richard Rorty* (Peter Lang Publishing, 1997); and *New Essays in Religious Naturalism* (Mercer University Press, 1993). She is Co-Editor of the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*; an officer of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, and the American Theological Society (Midwest Division); and a member of the American Academy of Religion, and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. [on sabbatical, 2008-2009 school year]

Chad Mohler

holds a B.S. in physics and philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated summa cum laude. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1999. Mohler is a member of the American Philosophical Association and Phi Beta Kappa. His area of specialization is epistemology, but he also has strong interests in the philosophy of science (including the philosophy of quantum mechanics), metaphysics, logic, and philosophy of religion. His current research addresses the question of what beliefs are rational even in the absence of evidence for them. In his teaching, Dr. Mohler strives to show how the great philosophical issues debated through the centuries are still of the highest relevance to us today. He emphasizes the

importance of carefully considering issues from different perspectives. [on sabbatical, 2008-2009 school year]

David Murphy

has been at Truman since 1988. He received his Ph.D. in theology from the University of Chicago. He holds a M.A.R. from Yale University and a B.A. in philosophy from Calvin College. As a Fulbright scholar, he was affiliated with the University of Leiden (the Netherlands). His research interests include contemporary religions thought, theories about religion and ethics, and intersections between religious, philosophical, and scientific perspectives on human nature. His publications include *Debates on God and Experience in the Netherlands, 1965-1989*. During the 1998-1999 academic year, he earned a M.Phil. degree in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. He is currently writing a doctoral dissertation on emotions in the University of Edinburgh's philosophy department.

Lloyd Pflueger

has been at Truman since 1993. He received his doctorate and master's in religious studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Washington, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduated *magna cum laude*. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin, California Polytechnic State University, and California State University-Long Beach. He specializes in South Asian religion, classical yoga philosophy, Indian philosophy, and classical Sanskrit. He has 27 articles on Hindu and Buddhist topics in *Oxford Dictionary of World Religions* (Oxford, 1997). Also from Oxford, he published a chapter in *The Innate Capacity* (1998), "Discriminating the Innate Capacity: Salvation Mysticism in Classical Samkhya-Yoga." Other recent publications include: *The Bhagavad Gita for Contemporary American Religion* (Macmillan, 2000) and in 2003 from Routledge Curzon (London) a chapter, "Dueling with Dualism: Revisioning the Paradox of Purusha and Prakriti, in *Yoga: The Indian Tradition*." Recent publications include an article, "Ishvara," for *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (Macmillan) and "Person, Purity, and Power in the Yogasūtra," for *Essays on the Theory and Practice of Yoga*, Knut Jacobson, Ed., (Brill). In the summer of 2004, Dr. Pflueger was chosen as a participant in the NEH Summer Seminar and Institute Program, *Religion and Politics in India* at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 6 – July 9. In Summer 2007 Dr. Pflueger was chosen to participate in The Japanese Studies Association Freeman Institute on Japanese Culture and Language, May 20 to June 8 at Tokai University in Honolulu, HI. He is currently working on an article on Ishvara (The Lord) for the Brill Encyclopedia of Religion, as well as a long term project titled *The 1000 Names of the All-pervasive God Vishnu*. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Stephen Pollard

received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1979 and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1983. He is the author of *Philosophical Introduction to Set Theory* (Notre Dame, 1990), co-author of *Closure Spaces and Logic* (Kluwer, 1996), and co-translator of *The Continuum* by Hermann Weyl (Dover, 1994).