



St. Augustine Bible Institute and College

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"Where the Word of Christ dwells richly"

THE 262 Comparative Religions

Winter 2010 January 26-May 22

Monday 6-9:00 p.m.

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Mission Statement

The Mission of the St. Augustine Bible Institute and College is to provide Christian believers with a comprehensive study of the Scripture to enhance their spiritual lives, equip them with a Christian worldview, and prepare them for service and leadership in the church, the marketplace and missions.

I. Course Description

This Course provides a comparative study of world religious systems as related to the Biblical principles of Christianity. As a result of participating in this course students will have an "insider's" view of each of the major world traditions, understanding the profundity of the text from the Epistle to the Galatians, "In the fullness of time, God sent His Son . . .," and subsequently the best manner to approach the Great Commission. Neo-Atheism as a worldview is also considered.

II. Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites, however analytical skills appropriate to basic scholarship are assumed.

III. Required Textbooks

- A. Burke, T. Patrick *The Major Religions: An Introduction with texts*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing, 2004. Paperback.
- B. Lutzer, Erwin W. *Christ Among Other Gods*. Moody Press, 1997. (ISBN#0-8024-1649-7). Paperback.

IV. Course Objectives

The student who successfully completes this course will gain the following experiences and competencies:

- A. An "on-the-ground" engagement with the three major religious traditions and their constituent sub-groupings, understanding how various historical, cultural, and spiritual factors shaped those traditions and the societies that embraced them.
- B. An understanding of the unique place of Christianity within the global context and the manner in which it represents every legitimate aspiration found in non-Christian religions, and provides a definitive answer to every human condition.

- C. To further develop to ability to engage in analytical, research and communication activities so as to be a better servant of the Lord Jesus Christ in an increasingly complex society.

V. Course Requirements

- A. Read each text thoroughly as directed, and maintain a personal reading notebook.
- B. Write an 8-10 page research paper on a subject found in either text or a topic from class (subject to instructor approval). Use 3-5 references and follow the Turabian format for citations. Biblical references may be used in your paper, but are not included as part of he references required. Submission deadline will be announced in class.
- C. All institutional policies pertaining to class attendance and other academic matters will be the norm for this course.

VI. Course Policy

The course policy is under separate cover, but is to be adhered to as part of the course syllabus, as indicated in item V.c above.