Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion. It is also a Gordon Rule course. Thus, a minimum of three written assignments is required. This course will involve a two site visits, a midterm, a final exam, and a term paper.

Course Objectives

- Strong focus on Native American Religions, Shinto, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Discover the history, teachings, and practices of various religions and be able to interpret and explain the meaning and structure of a selected group of religious texts and practices of the various religions discussed in class
- Appreciate the diversity and similarities among different religions and be able to evaluate and describe the context, influence, and structure of these religious communities within a given society
- Improve students’ writing skills
- Fulfill Gordon Rule requirement

Required Reading

Textbook
- Religions of the World by Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark Woodward, 13th Edition

Instructor Information

Name: Miss Jennell Botello
Class Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00am - 11:50am
Class Room: PC 332
Email: jbotel01@fiu.edu
Turnitin.com: Class ID #: 6801884  Class Password: religion13

*All turnitin assignments are due at 11:59pm on the due date*

***ABSOLUTELY NO TAPE RECORDING DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED***
## Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visit 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visit 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Course Policies

### Midterm
The midterm (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The midterm focuses on the first half of the semester, which will be Native American Religions, Shinto, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

***No Make Ups***

### Final
The final (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The final is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the midterm exam, which will be Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

***No Make Ups***

### Site Visit
Students will turn in a site visit paper worth (15% each) of the overall grade. Students will attend a religious service from a religion that is **not** their own and write a formal report on the experience. The students will be emailed more detailed instructions and a list of suggested places during the first week of school. The paper will be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com).

### Term Paper
Students will turn in a term paper worth (20%) of the overall grade. The term paper is a research assignment on a topic relating to the course that particularly interests the student. The topic for the paper must receive the approval of the instructor before it is submitted. The topic is due 1 week before the paper is due. Check the syllabus for dates. The term paper must be a minimum of 8 pages and no more than 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography or works cited page and the cover page. This paper is formal and must be typed, *not hand-written*, in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The margins should be 1-inch on all sides. *APA, MLA, and Chicago Manual Style* will be accepted. According to the style of choice, the student is advised to include footnotes or endnotes. The students will be emailed more detailed
instructions during the first week of class. This paper will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

**Essay Examination**
Students will be given a take home essay exam during the semester, which will be worth (15%). The essay exam is a formal paper that must be typed in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The students must answer a series of questions and submit the answers to www.turnitin.com. The questions and extra reading material will be emailed a couple of weeks before the due date.

**Attendance**
Attendance is (10%) of the student’s grade. The student is allowed three absences for the semester without being penalized. Any absence after the three allowed ones will result in points being deducted from the student’s final grade. Attendance is strongly advised since the professor uses outside knowledge and material to supplement the book and make the lectures more complete. The attendance grade also includes lateness and conduct in class. Those students who talk excessively, constantly enter and leave the classroom due to phone calls, text message continuously, listen to their ipods during lectures, and play on their laptops during class time will have their attendance score marked down. Students who are considered to be disruptive and disrespectful will be asked to leave and their attendance will be marked down.

***Cell phones must be set to silent mode***

**Extra Credit (Movie Review)**
Students will pick a movie with a religious theme from a list that will be emailed during the first week of class and answer certain questions according to the movie chosen. The student is able to earn a total of 5 points to their lowest grade. The movies are placed on reserve on the 5th floor of the Green Library under the name Professor Botello. They can also be found on Netflix or your local video store. This assignment will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

**Syllabus**

1. [Monday – August 26] Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements

2. [Wednesday – August 28] Native American Religions
   Reading This Chapter for Class

3. [Friday – August 30] Shinto
   Reading This Chapter for Class


5. [Wednesday – September 4] Shinto

6. [Friday – September 6] Shinto

7. [Monday – September 9] Shinto
8. [Wednesday – September 11] **Movie**

9. [Friday – September 13] **Movie**

10. [Monday – September 16] **Movie**

11. [Wednesday – September 18] **Movie**

12. [Friday – September 20] Hinduism
    Reading This Chapter for Class


15. [Friday – September 27] Hinduism

    **Site Visit (Eastern Religions)**

17. [Wednesday – October 2] Buddhism
    Reading This Chapter for Class

18. [Friday – October 4] Buddhism


20. [Wednesday – October 9] Buddhism

21. [Friday – October 11] Buddhism

22. [Monday – October 14] **Kundun** (movie)

23. [Wednesday – October 16] **Kundun** (movie)

24. [Friday – October 18] **Kundun** (movie)

25. [Monday – October 21] **Midterm Exam**

26. [Wednesday – October 23] Judaism
    Reading This Chapter for Class

27. [Friday – October 25] Judaism

29. [Wednesday – October 30] Judaism

30. [Friday – November 1] Judaism

   Reading This Chapter for Class
   Site Visit 2 (Western or Caribbean Religions)

32. [Wednesday – November 6] Christianity

33. [Friday – November 8] Christianity

34. [Monday – November 11] Veteran’s Day Holiday (No Class)

35. [Wednesday – November 13] Christianity

36. [Friday – November 15] Christianity

37. [Monday – November 18] Christianity
   Reading This Chapter for Class
   Term Paper Due

38. [Wednesday – November 20] Islam

39. [Friday – November 22] Islam

40. [Monday – November 25] Islam

41. [Wednesday – November 27] Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

42. [Friday – November 29] Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

43. [Monday – December 2] Islam
   Extra Credit Due
   Last Day for Late Papers

44. [Wednesday – December 4] Islam

45. [Friday – December 6] Islam

***** The Schedule Is Subject To Change. Any Changes Will Be Emailed *****
Cheating and Plagiarism

1. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions.
2. Students found cheating on an exam will be given a 0 for the test.
3. Students that are caught cheating repeatedly will be given an F for the class followed by disciplinary action.
4. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment.
5. If the student has plagiarized the entire work then the student will be given a grade of F for the class followed by disciplinary actions.
6. It is recommended to look over the University’s Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm

Email Information

1. Students must put the class name and time in the subject line. The student must also include their name and panther id in the email. This will guarantee a quicker reply.
2. The instructor will check her email every day. If multiple students email the same concern, then an email will be sent to all of the students addressing the issue.
3. Additional instructions and readings for assignments will be emailed throughout the semester.

Make Up Tests and Late Papers

1. As stated above there are no make-up exams. It is recommended to plan accordingly to be available for the three exam dates.
2. Late papers will be accepted, but a grade deduction will be given for the lateness.
3. Absolutely no late paper will be accepted after the final deadline for all papers (December 2).

Attendance

1. Coming to class and signing in does not guarantee full attendance points.
2. Attendance is a combination of attending class AND conduct in the classroom.
3. Students who are disrespectful and disruptive to the professor and their fellow classmates will be asked to leave.

Cell Phones and Laptops

1. Cell Phones must be set to silent mode.
2. Laptops used for social media purposes or entertainment will not be tolerated. If this happens the student will have to take notes the old fashion way with a pencil/pen and paper.
3. Cell phone usage during a test will result in a 0.
Additional Information

1. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of all papers submitted to the instructor.
2. MLA, APA, and Chicago writing styles are accepted for the written assignments.
3. The University’s last day to drop courses or withdraw without incurring a financial liability is Sept 3.
4. Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund of tuition Sept 20
5. Deadline to drop a course with a DR grade is November 4