Instructor: Mr. Daniel Alvarez
Office Hours: TBA

alvarezd@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course will analyze different theories and methods in the study of religion. This area of study necessarily demands an interdisciplinary approach to the subject, taking into account the different disciplinary approaches. We have identified important perspectives coming from History, Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Psychoanalysis, Sociology and Anthropology; our course will present a panorama of these approaches, with special emphasis on anthropological, sociological, theological, philosophical, and historical approaches. The course will develop key issues and concepts on the study of religion. It will be taught in a seminar format.

TEXTBOOKS
Required books:
John J. Collins, *The Bible After Bible: Historical Criticism in a Post-Modern Age*, Eerdmans 2005, ISBN 0802828922; all other readings provided will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES
1. Research paper (10-12 pages) on a course topic or one agreed in advance with the instructor (30% of grade).
2. Five (5) quizzes (20% of grade).
3. Midterm Exam (20% of grade).
4. Final Exam (20% of grade).
5. Power Point (10% of grade).

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COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: John J. Collins, *The Bible After Bible: Historical Criticism in a Post-Modern Age*.

WEEK 2: Ernst Troeltsch, “Historical and Dogmatic Method in Theology”, “The Place of Christianity Among the World Religions.”


WEEK 5: Emile Durkheim, selections from *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*.


WEEK 7: Clifford Geertz, “Religion as a Cultural System,” from *The Interpretations of Culture*, 87-125.


WEEK 11: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)


WEEK 16: POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Freud, Sigmund: ‘Chapter 3. Animism, magic and the omnipotence of thought’ Totem and Taboo [1913]. (online version at the group).


