GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Mariana Restrepo
Course Supervisor: Oren Stier, stiero@fiu.edu
Office: DM 302
Office Hours: by appointment
E-mail: marianarestrepota@gmail.com

Class: REL2011 MWF 10:00am – 10:50 pm. Paul Cejas Architecture 167

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore concepts such as deity, theodicy, cosmology and ritual and others such as religious social implications in society. The student will be introduced to each concept through the textbook, and class lectures. Throughout the course the student will also be exposed to specific rituals, myths, doctrines, ethics and symbols from various different world religions and cultures. Students will be tested on this material through a midterm, and a final exam. Three essays will develop the student’s critical thinking skills and writing abilities. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions
- Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures
- Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols
- Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought
- Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies
- Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world
- Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community

TEXTBOOK

Required:

Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion,
James C. Livingston,
Prentice Hall, 6th Edition

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE

- Start your essays early! This cannot be emphasized enough.
- Complete the assigned readings before coming to class.

- It is the student’s responsibility to be attentive, respectful, keep up with the work, and hand in assignments on time.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class. There will be no texting or leaving class to take a telephone call.
- If a student is having any difficulties with the assignments, readings, papers, tests, punctuality, attendance, or medical issues, they should speak to the professor before it becomes a problem. Good communication will always lead to a successful resolution of the issue.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

- E-mail: Contact me via marianarestrepota@gmail.com
- Or make an appointment to see me at the office

GRADING

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Visit (consists of two parts) for a total of 100 points</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Site Visit First Draft (Essay 1): 30 points</td>
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<td>- Site Visit Final Version (Essay 2): 70 points</td>
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<td>Globalization Essay (Essay 3)</td>
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<td>Attendance and class participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam 2 Final</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
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GORDON RULE REQUIREMENT

This is a Gordon Rule course with a three paper requirement and you must attain at least a C (not a C- or less) to pass a Gordon Rule course. Under the Gordon Rule, FIU requires that student papers: 1) have a clear thesis or controlling idea; 2) have a thesis supported with adequate reasons and evidence; 3) be organized clearly and logically; 4) show sustained analysis and critical thought; 5) show knowledge of conventions of standard written English; and 6) show awareness of disciplinary conventions in regard to content, style, form, and delivery method.

Class participation and Attendance

Students are expected to actively participate in class by making relevant comments, and asking and answering questions.
Students are to arrive on time and stay until the class period is over. Repeated tardiness is counted as an absence for that day.
Regular attendance and punctuality is mandatory for this course.
3 or more absences will result letter grade reduction.

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected of all. Only one unexcused absences will go without penalty.
Any additional unexcused absence beyond that will cause a drop of one rung on the final grading scale, i.e., from an A to an A-, an A- to a B+, and so on. If you will be unable to attend a particular class, you are expected to inform the professor beforehand via e-mail or telephone and explain your reason.

Religious Holidays

By university policy, students must notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance that he/she wishes to observe a religious holy day. The student will be excused from class without penalty. The student is still responsible for the material and will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed after discussion with the instructor.
EXAMS

There will be a Midterm Objective (Exam 1) & Final Objective (Exam 2)

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers
Late papers will be downgraded one letter grade for each day late.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1. A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
2. Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
3. Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

ESSAYS

Turnitin.com
Students will write three 6-7 page essays during the semester. A “Site Visit Report” submitted in both a first draft (Essay 1) and a final version (Essay 2), and a “Globalization essay” (essay 3).

All Essays will be turned into Turnitin.com on Blackboard.

For the first essay, the student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. The student will turn in a draft version of the report, and a final version of the site visit. For the third essay, the student will analyze the article ‘The Case for Contamination’ by Kwame Anthony Appiah.

Important: Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com digital receipt (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

COURSE CALENDAR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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| **Week 1** Jan 7- jan 11 | **Section I. The Study of Religion**  
| **Week 2** Jan 14-18 | **Section II. Universal Forms of Experience and Expression.**  
| **Week 3** Jan 21-25 | Monday jan 21 No class  
| **Week 4** Jan 28- Feb 1 | **Topic:** Ritual Action. Types of Sacred Ritual. Ritual and Sacrifice. Rituals as Sacraments. | Chapter 5 p. 74-95 |
| **Week 5** Feb 4-8 | **Topic:** The Pervasive Role of Sacred Scripture. Using the Term Scripture. Some Distinctive Features of Sacred Scripture. The Authority and Canonicity of Scripture. The Reception and Uses of Scripture. The Interpretation of Scripture.  
**Site Visit Essay #1 DRAFT VERSION FRIDAY** | Chapter 6 p. 96-123  
SITE VISIT DUE |
| **Week 7** Feb 18-22 | **Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview**  
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<th>Week 8</th>
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<td><strong>feb 25-March 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 4-8</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 11-15</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 18-22</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 25-29</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 1-5</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 8-12</strong></td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
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<td>Final - Exam 2</td>
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