FIU Department of Religious Studies  
Religion: Analysis and Interpretation  
REL 2011 Section 3  
Spring 2014  

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 take home essay exam, a site visit, 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

Instructor Information

Name: Miss Jennell Botello  
Class Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00pm - 12:50pm  
Class Room: OE 100  
Email: jbotel01@fiu.edu  
Turnitin.com: Class ID #: 7451738  
Class Password: religion14

*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>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visit</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</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.

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***

**Syllabus**

2. [Wednesday – January 8] Native American Religions
   Reading This Chapter for Class
3. [Friday – January 10] Native American Religions
5. [Wednesday – January 15] Shinto
   Reading This Chapter for Class
6. [Friday – January 17] Shinto
8. [Wednesday – January 22] Shinto
   Distribute Take Home Exam

12. [Friday – January 31] Movie

   Reading This Chapter for Class
   **Take Home Exam Due**


15. [Friday – February 7] Hinduism


17. [Wednesday – February 12] Hinduism / Buddhism

18. [Friday – February 14] Buddhism
   Reading This Chapter for Class

19. [Monday – February 17] Buddhism
   **Term Paper Due**

20. [Wednesday – February 19] Buddhism

21. [Friday – February 21] Buddhism

22. [Monday – February 24] *Kundun* (movie)

23. [Wednesday – February 26] *Kundun* (movie)

24. [Friday – February 28] *Kundun* (movie)

25. [Monday – March 3] **Midterm Exam**

26. [Wednesday – March 5] Judaism
   Reading This Chapter for Class

27. [Friday – March 7] Judaism

28. [Monday – March 10] **Spring Break**

29. [Wednesday – March 12] **Spring Break**

30. [Friday – March 14] **Spring Break**

32. [Wednesday – March 19] Judaism

33. [Friday – March 21] Judaism

34. [Monday – March 24] Christianity
   Reading This Chapter for Class
   Site Visit Due

35. [Wednesday – March 26] Christianity

36. [Friday – March 28] Christianity

37. [Monday – March 31] Christianity

38. [Wednesday – April 2] Christianity

39. [Friday – April 4] Islam
   Reading This Chapter for Class

40. [Monday – April 7] Islam
   Extra Credit Due
   Last Day for Late Papers

41. [Wednesday – April 9] Islam

42. [Friday – April 11] Islam

43. [Monday – April 14] Islam

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

Plagiarism

1. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment. 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
2. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions
3. It is recommended to look over the University’s Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm
Cheating and Plagiarism

4. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions.
5. Students found cheating on an exam will be given a 0 for the test.
6. Students that are caught cheating repeatedly will be given an F for the class followed by disciplinary action.
7. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment.
8. 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.
9. 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 (April 7).

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 or ringing 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 Jan 13.
4. Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund of tuition Jan 31
5. Deadline to drop a course with a DR grade is March 17