GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This online section of Religion: Analysis and Interpretation will use a multimedia approach to explore the basic concepts in the study of religion. This format's scope includes the exploration of 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, videos, and PowerPoint presentations by members of the Religious Studies faculty, each in their own research specialization. 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 time-restricted quizzes and long-response exams. Two research papers will develop the student’s critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For the site visit essay, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of their own tradition. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement; you must earn a “C” or better to receive credit for this course.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES
Please review the policies page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS
One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer’s operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but
students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION
Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
For more information about prerequisites, click here.

TEXTBOOK
Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion
James C. Livingston
Prentice Hall, 6th Edition
013600380X
9780136003809
You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE
This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
• **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
• **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
• **Review** and follow the course calendar

## COURSE DETAIL

### COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **Messages**.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

### DISCUSSION FORUMS

Each week, beginning with the second week of class, there will be discussion questions posted for you to respond to. These discussions are meant to stimulate critical thinking about how religions manifest in our globalized world. The responses in the discussions should be well thought out and written in standard American English (that is to say, use correct spelling and proper punctuation and capitalization). You may use links to news articles or other media sites to strengthen your positions on particular issues.

In addition to posting your own answers to the weekly discussion topics, you should respond to the postings from your fellow classmates and/or the instructor. Each week that you participate, you should respond to at least **two** of your classmates’ posts. **In other words, you should have at least three substantial posts in total for each discussion topic.** At the end of the course, your discussion thread will be graded based on the quantity and the quality of what you have written.

In responding to others, it is important to be courteous and respectful. If you disagree with something that has been said, that is fine. But be sure to explain why and where appropriate support your own view with evidence. Also, it is fine to ask questions that are related to our topic to extend the discussion. But please make sure the questions are relevant. Please remember that this is an academic forum.

Discussion topics will be open from Monday to Sunday of each week that a discussion topic is posted. See the course calendar for the weeks that have discussion topics posted.

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

### QUIZZES
A time-restricted, online quiz will be given on each week's religious concept. You can take each quiz twice, and the highest of the two attempts will be recorded. Even if you do well on the first attempt, it is advisable to use both attempts. There is a large database of quiz questions so many of the questions in your second attempt will be new to you since the computer randomly chooses the questions.

For the quizzes, you will have 20 minutes to complete 10 questions. Each quiz will be open for one week, from Monday to Sunday until midnight, and you can take it on any of those days at any time.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the “Practice Quiz” from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

**Note:** Quiz resets will not be granted for technical issues. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz.

Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.).

The correct answers for quizzes will **not** be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers.

**WRITTEN EXAMS**
The essay topics for **Written Exam 1** and **Written Exam 2** will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability time (check the weekly calendar). The essay exams must be submitted to Turnitin.com. All assignments can be submitted to Turnitin.com via Blackboard in the Assignment Dropbox Folder. Review the detailed Turnitin Instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

The written exams should each be approximately 750-900 words long.

**RESEARCH PAPER 1 - SITE VISIT ESSAY (SEE ASSIGNMENT DETAILS FOR MORE GUIDELINES)**

All Essays, ‘Research Paper 1 - Site Visit (Draft & Final Copy)’ and ‘Research Paper 2 - Appiah Analysis’ and ‘Written Exam 1’ and ‘Written Exam 2’, will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com via a link in Blackboard. It is not necessary to create a separate Turnitin account. Review the detailed Turnitin Instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.
DRAFT: Your first submission will be a draft version of the site visit (30 points of assignment total). This section does not need to include all of the supplementary research you will do on the religion you chose to explore. The draft should include your experience at the actual site and be approximately 600-750 words.

FINAL COPY: The final copy of the Site Visit should include a works cited page that DOES NOT include Wikipedia (or any other encyclopedic web sites), all of the research you completed as related to all rituals, symbols, and theology as well as the information from the actual site visit. The final copy should be 1800-2000 words.

RESEARCH PAPER 2- APPIAH ANALYSIS ESSAY (SEE ASSIGNMENT DETAILS FOR MORE GUIDELINES)

This assignment requires two parts:

1. a discussion in the related forum (20 POINTS of your assignment grade) and 2. Your analysis and reflections on the article (80 POINTS of your assignment grade) in 1800-2000 words. The article you will be analyzing and discussing is ‘The Case for Contamination’ by Kwame Anthony Appiah.

PART 1 – Discussion Board Portion (20 points)

Read the article “The Case for Contamination” by Kwame Anthony Appiah and post your initial response to the following questions to the Discussion Board: “What roles do religions play in Appiah’s analysis? How is your approach similar to or different from his?”

Once you have posted your answer, respond to at least three of your fellow students' posts and explain how you agree/disagree with them. (a total of 4 posts: 1 original thread + 3 comments)

Each response should be at least 100 words and should demonstrate knowledge of the article as well as class readings and PowerPoints.

*The discussion posts are due no later than one week prior to the essay deadline. Check Course Calendar in Syllabus for exact due dates.

PART 2 - Essay (80 points)

After reading your classmates' responses and considering your initial response, write a more detailed answer to the question in an essay format. Your essay should be at least 1800-2000 words and your argument should be supported with information from the class readings and PowerPoints.

Submit your essay to Assignment Dropbox inside Blackboard.
Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com electronic receipt (confirmation of assignment submission), until you have received your final grade for the course.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Late Papers**
Late papers will not be accepted. Students are responsible for reading their blackboard messages and all announcements posted by the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

**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](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.

**Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.**

**Extra Credit**
No Extra Credit work will be accepted in this course.

**Quiz resets**
Quiz resets will not be granted for technical issues. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz.

Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.).

The correct answers for quizzes will not be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers.
## GRADING

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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>Research Paper 1 – Site Visit</td>
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<td>Rough Draft</td>
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<td>Final Draft</td>
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<td>Research Paper 2 –</td>
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<td>Part 1- Discussion Portion</td>
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<td>Part 2- Appiah Analysis</td>
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<td>Multiple Choice Quizzes (13*100) / 13</td>
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<td>Participation in Weekly Discussions Topics (13 in total)</td>
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<td>Written Exam 1</td>
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<td>Written Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site. Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar.</td>
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<td><strong>Section I - The Study of Religion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Defining Religion. Why Are Humans Religious? Why Study Religion?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Chapter 1 p. 1-14</td>
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<td><strong>DUE:</strong> Introduce Yourself in the Discussion Forum</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong> Jan 13-19</td>
<td><strong>Section I - The Study of Religion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>View Presentations:</strong> Dr. Northup - What Is Religion? How Is It Studied?</td>
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<td><strong>Topic:</strong> The Perspective of the Student–Commitment and Objectivity. The Ways Religion Is Studied. Interpreting and Explaining Religion.</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Chapter 2 p. 15-34</td>
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<td><strong>DUE:</strong> Take Quizzes 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td><strong>DUE:</strong> Participate in Discussion Forum</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong> Jan 20-26</td>
<td><strong>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</strong></td>
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<td><strong>View Presentation:</strong> Dr. Huchingson - The Sacred and the Holy.</td>
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<td><strong>Read</strong>: Chapter 3 p. 35-52</td>
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<td><strong>DUE</strong>: Take Quiz 3: The Sacred and the Holy</td>
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<td><strong>DUE</strong>: Participate in Discussion Forum</td>
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**Week 4**  
Jan 27 - Feb 2

| View Presentation: | Dr. Northup - Sacred Symbol, Myth, and Doctrine. |
| Read:              | Chapter 4 p. 53-73 |
| **DUE**:           | Take Quiz 4: Sacred Symbol, Myth, and Doctrine |
| **DUE**:           | Participate in Discussion Forum |

**Week 5**  
Feb 3-9

| View Presentation: | Dr. Northup - Sacred Ritual. |
| Read:              | Chapter 5 p. 74-95 |
| **DUE**:           | Take Quiz 5: Sacred Ritual |
| **DUE**:           | Participate in Discussion Forum |

*Have you visited a religious site yet? Your Site Visit Draft is due in two weeks!*

**Week 6**  
Feb 10-16

<p>| View Presentation: | Dr. Larson - Sacred Scripture. |
| 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. |
| Read:              | Chapter 6 p. 96-123 |
| <strong>DUE</strong>:           | Take Quiz 6: Sacred Scripture |
| <strong>DUE</strong>:           | Participate in Discussion Forum |</p>
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| Week 7  
Feb 17-23 | **View Presentation:** Dr. Wuaku - Society and the Sacred: The Social Formations and Transformations of Religion.  
**Read:** Chapter 7 p. 124-150  
**DUE:** Take Quiz 7: Society and the Sacred  
**DUE:** Research Paper 1- Site Visit Draft Copy due via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox – Saturday, Feb 22\textsuperscript{nd} 11:45pm  
**DUE:** Participate in Discussion Forum |
| Week 8  
Feb 24-28 | **Take Written Exam 1 –will only be available Monday-Friday**  
Covers materials from Week 1-7  
Monday, Feb 24 12:00am- Friday, Feb 28 11:45pm |
| Week 9  
Mar 3-9 | **Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview**  
**View Presentation:** Dr. Huchingson- Deity: Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate Reality.  
**Read:** Chapter 8 p. 151-182  
**DUE:** Take Quiz 8: Deity  
**DUE:** Participate in Discussion Forum  
**Start working on the final copy of your Research Paper 1 -Site Visit. It is due in two weeks!** |
| Week 10  
Mar 10-16 | **Spring Break – Quiz 9 and Discussion Forum will be open until end of Week 11**  
**View Presentation:** Rabbi Shulkes - Cosmogony: Origins of the Natural and Social Order. |
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**DUE**: Take Quiz 9: Cosmogony  
**DUE**: Participate in Discussion Forum |
| **Week 11**  
Mar 17-23 | **View Presentation**: Dr. Wuaku - Anthropology: The Human Problem.  
**Read**: Chapter 10 p. 211-234  
**DUE**: Remember to Take Quiz 9 and participate in last week’s discussion forum if you have not already completed them  
**DUE**: Take Quiz 10: The Human Problem  
**DUE**: Research Paper 1 - Site Visit Final Copy due via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox Saturday, March 22nd 11:45pm  
**DUE**: Participate in Discussion Forum |
| **Week 12**  
Mar 24-30 | **View Presentation**: Dr. Gudorf - Theodicy: Encountering Evil.  
**Read**: Chapter 11 p. 235-258  
**DUE**: Take Quiz 11: Theodicy  
**DUE**: Participate in Discussion Forum  
**Start working on Research Paper 2 – Appiah Analysis. It is due in two weeks! Make sure you complete Part 1 of the assignment before starting** |
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**Week 13**  
Mar 31 - Apr 6  

**View Presentation:** Dr. Gudorf - Ethics: Patterns of Moral Action.  
**Topic:** Virtues and Obligations. The Sources and Norms of Moral Authority.  
**Read:** Chapter 12 p. 259-286  
**DUE:** Take Quiz 12: Ethics  
**DUE:** Participate in Discussion Forum  

**DUE:** This is the last week to do **Part 1 of Research Paper 2-Appiah Analysis** (see Assignment Details) – Due Sunday, April 6th 11:45pm  

**Week 14**  
Apr 7-13  

**View Presentation:** Dr. Huchingson - Soteriology: Ways and Goals of Salvation and Liberation.  
**Read:** Chapter 13 p. 287-338  
**NO QUIZ THIS WEEK**  
**DUE:** Research Paper 2- Appiah Analysis Essay — due on Saturday, April 12th 11:45pm via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox  
**DUE:** Participate in Discussion Forum  

**Week 15**  
Apr 14-20  

**Section IV. The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity**  

**View Presentation:** Dr. Bidegain - The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity.  
**Read:** Chapters 14-15 p. 339-398  
**DUE:** Take Quiz 13: Soteriology and Fundamentalism (this quiz covers material
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<td><strong>DUE: Participate in Discussion Forum</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Due: Take Global Learning Quiz</strong> <em>(This is for University Assessment Purposes)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 16 Apr 21-25</strong></td>
<td>You must take the Global Learning Quiz prior to attempting Written Exam 2.</td>
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<td><strong>Take Written Exam 2 - will only be available Monday-Friday</strong></td>
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<td>Covers materials from Week 8-15</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, April 21 12:00AM– Friday, April 25 11:45pm</strong></td>
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