COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE
This course has been developed by the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies, with each professor lecturing on meditation and mysticism in his or her area of religious specialization. The course will examine meditation and mysticism within each of the major world religions, as well as within some indigenous religions. Each module consists of PowerPoint lectures by faculty, readings, a weekly quiz, brief weekly assignments (of which each student must submit four), and two exams, each consisting of multiple choice questions and an essay portion.

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 information about prerequisites, click here.

TEXTBOOK
Mysticism: Holiness East and West
Denise Carmody and John Carmody
Oxford University Press (1996)
0195088190
978-0195088199

Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter the Ecological Phase
Mary Evelyn Tucker
Open Court (2003)
0812695291
978-0812695298

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 Email feature is an external communication tool that allows users to send emails to users enrolled within the course including the instructor and other students. Emails are sent to the students' FIU email on record. The Email tool is located on the left side Course Menu.
For more information on professional writing and technical communication click here.

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

**QUIZZES**
A weekly time-restricted, online quiz will be given based on the materials covered each week. *You can take each quiz two times, and the higher of the two attempts will be recorded.* Even if you do well on the first attempt, it is advisable to use both attempts. You will not receive the same quiz every time; the computer randomly chooses the questions from a quiz database. The objective questions in Exam 1 and Exam 2 will be taken directly from this database. Thus, the more times you take the quiz, the more questions you will receive and the better prepared you will be for the exams.  

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

**Important Policy on Quiz Resets:** Quiz resets will not be granted. 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.).

If you know that you will be unable to take a quiz during a specific week, contact the instructor in advance, and the quiz may be opened so you may take it early. It is the responsibility of students to keep up with the readings and take the quizzes on 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.

**EXAMS**
Exam 1 and Exam 2 consist of both objective and essay portions. The objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 are both online, time-restricted examinations. They are in the Assessments area. **Students have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of the Exam 1 and Exam 2 unlike the quizzes. Please make note of this important difference.**

The essay topics for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability time. **The essay portions of these exams must be submitted to turnitin.com via Blackboard (you do not need to register separately with Turnitin.com).** Review the detailed Turnitin Instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor. Please see the folder under Course Content labeled “Assignment Dropbox” for links.

The essays for Exam 1 and Exam 2 should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

**ASSIGNMENTS**
There will be ten (10) assignments posted, **but you will need to complete only four (4) of these.** The assignments will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Blackboard in the Assignment Dropbox Folder. Click on the link in the Assignments folder on the Course Content page. It is not necessary to create an account on Turnitin.com to submit this assignment. Please review the detailed Turnitin Instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your
professor.

These should not be written off the top of your head, but should demonstrate that they are informed by the readings and lectures. You need not agree with parts of the readings or lectures, but should be able to discuss the basis of your disagreement.

Each assignment should be approximately 250-500 words, depending on the essay topic. Some of the assignments require longer responses than others.

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.

Late work will not be accepted

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 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.

GRADING
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>83-86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (Objective 50 points + Essay 50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Objective 50 points + Essay 50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Quizzes (Average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (Average) 4 Total</td>
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<td>Module</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6-12</td>
<td>Read: <em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>View: Dr. Northup: <em>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism</em> (all presentations are found under PowerPoints in Course Content)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions (Continued)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan 13-19 | Read:  
|          | -Nancy Murphy, "Whatever happened to the Soul?" in Course Content  |
|          | -James Ashbrook and Carol Rausch Albright, "The Humanizing Brain: An Introduction,"  |
|          | View:                                                               |
Dr. Huchingson: *The Hardware of Mysticism*

**Take:**
Quiz 1: Introduction

**Assignment 1:**
Hardware of Mysticism
Due: Sunday, January 19th 11:45pm

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**Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions**

**Read:**
- Dominique Zahan, "Reflections on African Spirituality" (in Course Content)
- Mary Ann Clark, *Santería: Correcting the Myths and Uncovering the Realities of a Growing Religion*, chapter 7. Full text available through Netlibrary.

**View:**
Dr. Rey: *Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean*

**Take:**
Quiz 2: African and Afro-Caribbean Religions

**Assignment 2:**
African and Afro-Caribbean Mysticism
Due: Sunday, January 26th 11:45pm

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**Meditation and Mysticism among Native Americans**

**Read:**
- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 8
- William A. Young, *Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions*, chapters 1, 4, 5. Full text available through Netlibrary.

**View:**
Dr. Huchingson: Meditation and Mysticism Among Native Americans, I & II.

**Take:**
Quiz 3: Native Americans

**Assignment 3:**
Native American
Due: Sunday, February 2nd 11:45pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Take</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 10-16</td>
<td>Meditation and Mysticism in Daoism and Chinese Religions</td>
<td><em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 4</td>
<td>Dr. Heine: <em>Meditation and Mysticism in Chinese Religions</em></td>
<td>Quiz 5: Daoism and Chinese Religions</td>
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<td>Assignment 4: Daoism</td>
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<td>Due: Sunday, February 16th 11:45pm</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 17-23</td>
<td>Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism / Zen Buddhism</td>
<td><em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 3</td>
<td>Dr. Heine: <em>Intro to Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism, Meditation and Mysticism in Zen</em></td>
<td>Quiz 6: Buddhism/Zen Buddhism</td>
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<td>Assignment 5: Zen Mysticism Readings and Questions</td>
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<td>Due: Sunday, February 23rd 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 24-28</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Objective and Essay</td>
<td>Available under Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Mar 3-9</td>
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<td><strong>Take:</strong></td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Available Monday, February 24 12:00 am – Friday, February 28 11:45pm</td>
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**Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism**

**Read:**
*Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 5

**View:**
Dr. Zohar: *Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism*

**Take:**
Quiz 7: Judaism and Sephardic Judaism

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Mar 10-16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Break – Quiz 8 and Assignment 6 will be open until end of Week 11</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Mysticism in Hasidic Judaism**

**Read:**
15 short "Additional Essays on Hasidism" by Immy Humes, which can be found [here](#).

These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see [here](#)).

**Note:** There is one error in the readings: In the essay titled "Inside the Community: A Holy Life," the author translates the Hebrew acronym for Chabad as "Wisdom, Learning, and Faith." The acronym actually stands for "Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding." Please make a note of this.

**View:**
Dr. Stier: *Hasidic Judaism*

**Take:**
Quiz 8: Hasidic Judaism

**Assignment 6:**
Hasidic
Due: Sunday, March 23rd 11:45pm

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Mar 17-23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity</strong></td>
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**Read:**
- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 6
- Gregory of Nyssa, *Homily 6, On the Beatitudes* (pp. 90-91). Full text available through [Netlibrary](#).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>View</th>
<th>Take</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mysticism in Catholicism</td>
<td>Dr. Larson: <em>Mysticism in Early Christianity, I &amp; II</em></td>
<td>DUE: Remember to Take Quiz 8 and Assignment 6 if you have not already completed them</td>
<td>Quiz 9: Christianity</td>
<td>Assignment 7: Early Christianity Due: Sunday, March 23rd 11:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24-30</td>
<td>Julian of Norwich, <em>Revelations of Divine Love</em> (pp. 25-42). Full text available through Netlibrary.</td>
<td>Dr. Gudorf: <em>Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism</em></td>
<td>Quiz 10: Catholicism</td>
<td>Assignment 8: Christian Mystic Due: Sunday, March 30th 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mysticism in Protestantism</td>
<td>Prof. Alvarez: <em>Mysticism in Protestantism</em></td>
<td>Quiz 11: Protestantism</td>
<td>Assignment 9: Protestant Mysticism Due: Sunday, April 6th 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Meditation and Mysticism in Islam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Read:
- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 7
- "What is Tasawwuf (Sufism)?" An Anonymous Persian Poem – translated by A. A. Godlas (available [here](#))
- "The Chapter on Dhikr" from *at-Targhib wa at-Tarhib*, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani (available [here](#))

### View:
Dr. Musa: *Meditation and Mysticism in Islam*

### Take:
Quiz 12: Islam

### Assignment 10:
Islamic
Due: Sunday, April 13th 11:45pm

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### Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions

#### Week 15
Apr 14-20

Read:
Mary Tucker, *Worldly Wonder*, pp. 1-54

View:
Dr. Bauman: *Nature Mysticism*

Take:
Quiz 13: Nature Religions

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### Exam 2

#### Week 16
Apr 21-25

Take both parts: Objective and Essay
Available under Assessments

Take:
Final Exam 2
Available Monday, April 21st 12:00am – Friday, April 25th 11:45pm