Instructor: Daniella Vaclavik
Office Hours: T&TH 12:30-1:30
Office: DM 302

CLASSROOM: Chem&phys 111
Email: dvacl001@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the study of religion. Through class lectures, discussions, and activities, the student will explore concepts such as deity, theodicy, cosmology, and ritual, as well as religious social implications in society. 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 an objective midterm and final exam. Furthermore, three essays will develop the student’s critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For two of these essays, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of their own tradition, and the third essay is an analysis of the article “The Case for Contamination” by Kwame Anthony Appiah. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:
- Gain the necessary tools for the study of religion by being immersed in the beliefs, doctrines, rituals, symbols, (select) scriptures, and experiences
- Recognize religious themes and concepts in different traditions and 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
- Perform field research in order to better understand a particular religious tradition and community
- Perform informed cross-cultural comparison and evaluation of ways of being religious
- Understand the similarities and differences of many of the world’s religions in an educated manner, creating the opportunity for increased appreciation and tolerance

TEXTBOOK
Required:
Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion
James C. Livingston
Prentice Hall, 6th Edition
ISBN 10: 013600380X
ISBN 13: 978013600380

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
GORDON RULE
As a Gordon Rule course, written assignments are required of all students in order to fulfill the State-mandated standards for this course. The written assignments for this course consist of three essays. Under the Gordon Rule, FIU requires the following of the student’s essays:
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
6. Show awareness of disciplinary conventions in regard to content, style, form, and delivery method.
*Essays must be 1500-2000 excluding bibliography (1500 words minimum per essay is a requirement)

COURSE POLICIES:

ESSAYS
- The site visit must be on a religious service outside the student’s own tradition, or the tradition in which he/she was raised. **Essays on one’s own tradition will not be accepted.**
- Essay 1 is a first draft of the assignment. It should be approached as a final draft. Rough drafts will receive significant point deductions.
- Essay 2 is a final draft of the assignment. It should reflect improvements from the first draft. Superficial improvements or no improvements will result in point deductions.
- Essay 3 is an analytical and opinion essay. The student should demonstrate his/her understanding of the article being analyzed as well as having a clear position regarding the questions posed.
- There will be an in-class discussion to prepare student’s for this assignment. Students are expected to be prepared (having read the article and have it available) and fully participate. Attendance and participation are required.

LATE PAPERS
Late written work will receive a deduction of 5 points per day for five days, after which it will no longer be accepted. Extra time for assignments will not be allowed without a valid (documented) excuse. Students are expected to plan their work in a timely manner; please do not wait until last minute to submit your work online.

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
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 0 for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course. Furthermore, they will be reported to the University for Academic Misconduct.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE
Attendance and class participation are mandatory and part of the course’s final grade. Students are to arrive on time and stay until the class period is over. Students who arrive late will be counted as tardy. Three tardies will count as one absence. In the event of an excused absence or emergency, it is the student’s responsibility to approach the instructor and provide evidence for their absence as soon as possible. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences, after which points will be deducted. Students are expected to actively participate in class by making relevant comments, as well as asking and answering questions.

*Students are expected to silence their cellphones, be attentive, and stay for the duration of the entire class. Please let the instructor know before class if you need to leave early. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.*
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
By university policy, students must notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance that he/she wishes to observe a religious holiday. 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.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK
*All written work is to be submitted to turn-it-in via Blackboard*
- Students must save their Turnitin.com receipt that verifies the date and time they submitted their work. Receipts are essential to settle disputes as to when and whether a paper was submitted (and avoid possible late submission point deductions).
- All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12 point font size (written work submitted in large font or with wider spaces will not be accepted).
- Format and citing should follow a standard style and be consistent throughout the essay.
- **Authoritative sources must be used.** Internet sources such as Wikipedia, Encarta, about.com, ask.com, and the like, will not be accepted.

GRADE CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE GRADES
Site Visit (Essay 1) - First Draft 10%
Site Visit (Essay 2) - Final Draft 20%
Globalization (Essay 3) 20%
Objective Midterm (Exam 1) 15%
Objective Final (Exam 2) 15%
Attendance and Class Assignments 20%
TOTAL 100%

EXTRA CREDIT
There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. These will consist of attending lectures and writing a 2 page essay, and will be announced by the instructor in class. Each opportunity will be worth 2 extra points, with a maximum of 6 extra points towards the student’s final grade. To earn 2 points the student must write a minimum of 2 pages and no more than 3. The essay should be well written (typed, double spaced 12 point font, correct formatting, spelling, and insightful) and turned in no later than a week after the event.
COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1  Introduction. Ways of Studying Religion. Interpreting and explaining religion. Readings: Chapters 1 & 2
Jan 6th-Jan 12th

WEEK 2  The Sacred and the Holy
Jan 13th-Jan 19th Readings: Chapter 3

WEEK 3  Sacred Symbol, Myth, and Doctrine
Jan 20th-Jan 26th Readings: Chapter 4

WEEK 4  Sacred Ritual
Jan 27th-Feb 2nd Readings: Chapter 5

WEEK 5  Sacred Scripture - Site Visit Essay #1 Due Sunday February 9th by 11:59pm
Feb 3rd-Feb 9th Readings: Chapter 6

WEEK 6  Society and the Sacred
Feb 10th-Feb 16th Readings: Chapter 7

WEEK 7  Midterm Review & Midterm (February 20th)
Feb 17th-Feb 23rd

WEEK 8  Deity - Site Visit Essay #2 Due Sunday March 2nd by 11:59pm
Feb 24th-Mar 2nd Readings: Chapter 8

WEEK 9  Cosmogony
Mar 3rd-Mar 9th Readings: Chapter 9

WEEK 10  SPRING BREAK
Mar 10th-Mar 16th

WEEK 11  Views of the Human Problem + Appiah Article Discussion on March 18th
Mar 17th-Mar 23rd Readings: Chapter 10

WEEK 12  Views of the Human Problem Cont.
Mar 24th-Mar 30th

WEEK 13  Theodicy - Appiah Essay Due Sunday April 6th by 11:59pm
Mar 31st-Apr 6th Readings: Chapter 11

WEEK 14  Soteriology: Ways and Goals of Salvation and Liberation
Apr 7th-Apr 13th Readings: Chapter 13

WEEK 15  Ethics: Foundations of Moral Action + Final Review (April 17th)
Apr 14th-20th Readings: Chapter 12

WEEK 16  FINALS WEEK - Final Exam on Thursday 4/24 9:45 am
Apr 21st-Apr 27th

*Any changes will be announced in class and via email*