FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2014  
| REL 2011 | U07  
RELION -ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION  
Venue: CP-RM-107  
Days: SATURDAY Time: 9:30 am -12:15 pm  

Instructor: Prof Albert Wuaku  
Office: DM 309A SOUTHERN CAMPUS  
E-mail: wuakua@fiu.edu  
Office Hours: Thursday 12:00pm-1:30pm)  
Office Phone: 305 348 0112  

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
Using text readings, in- class participations and multi-media, this course will explore the basic concepts in the study of religion as a way of introducing students to the field. The scope of the course includes the exploration of concepts such as deity cosmology, myth and ritual scripture, ethics and salvation. This course is designed to enable students to delve into the complexities of the religious experience through students’ exposure to specific ritual; mythologies doctrines ethics and symbols of the various religions on the world. There will be class assignments, discussions, as well as a sacred site visit. These are all geared towards making the student really think about and analyze the dynamics of religion in the lives of people and societies especially in our increasingly globalizing world..  

LEARNING OUTCOMES  
•Students will recognize religious themes and concepts in the worlds cultures  
•Students will identify the meanings of religious concepts and symbols  
Students will evaluate their own religious views in relation to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.  
•Students will apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies  
•Students will be able to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world  
•Students will conduct field research within religious communities to better understand lived
religious experiences.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE**
This class meets once a week: Saturday from 5:00 to 7:45 pm.

Students are expected to arrive promptly and stay for the full duration of the class. Students should be prepared to participate in class by reading the assignments and by developing discussion or presentation material, as requested. Students are responsible for carefully reading the syllabus and calendar, meeting deadlines as posted, and submitting mature, thoughtful work.

**TEXTBOOKS**
By James C Livingston
Pearson/Prentice Hall

**COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AND OTHER MATTERS**

- **E-mail:** wuakua@fiu.edu
- **Contact:** During office hours

**GRADING**

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<th>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WEIGHTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1 site visit (due feb 24th)</td>
<td>Points -100 percentage of final grade - 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I Midterm (due March 7)</td>
<td>Points-100</td>
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EXPLANATION OF THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Midterm Exam (Exam 1) and Final Exam (Exam 2) are on-line, time-restricted examinations. Each exam has 50 multiple choice questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points (two points per question) and 20% of the final grade. There will be an exam study guide available to the students a week before each exam. NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to give pop quizzes, if the students do not seem sufficiently
THE ESSAYS

As a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write Essays. There will be 2 Essays. Essay 1 will be based on a Site Visit.

The student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. The Site Visit essay should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. The Site Visit is worth 100 points.

Essay 2 is an analysis of an Article by Anthony Appiah, on Globalization. The Title of this essay is the Case for Contamination. The essay should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. The essay is worth 100 points.

Essays will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Assignments in Blackboard. Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your Turnitin.com electronic receipt until you have received your final grade for the course.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give a group presentation on a topic related to the text readings, using PowerPoint, Prezi or similar. Guidelines will be given in class but the group will present current issues, events or people that impact the religion in that week’s readings. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation groups. If a student cannot attend the day of the presentation, they may be seriously penalized (up to receiving a 0 for the project) depending on their participation in project development. The group presentation is worth 50 points.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Attendance and Participation together are worth 50 points. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. However, students are given three “free” absences in order to accommodate transportation issues, illness, family responsibilities, work scheduling, and unavoidable absences. Students are strongly encouraged to save their “free” absences for unavoidable events since any other absences will incur a penalty of 5 points each. Students with ten or more absences (after the three “free” absences) will receive 0 points for attendance. Please inform the instructor immediately if a situation develops which will impact your performance or attendance. Participation includes reading for class, contributing to discussions and being attentive to lectures and student presentations. Please refrain from texting and emailing in class. Arriving late, leaving early or stepping out of the class for long periods of time may incur an absence penalty. Students will be expected to sign in on the class roster which will serve as documentation of their attendance.
FORMAT FOR ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE AND EXPECTATIONS

**You will need to do research on the Essays**: Your textbook and required readings may not have enough information about the topic. You may use any recognized style manual, but you must use it consistently.

**Do not use Wikipedia as an academic source.** You may use internet sources, but use only academic sources from the internet. (Academic sources list individual authors, name their sources, and have institutional affiliations.) **Points will be deducted for infractions of these rules.**

When grading your essays, I will be looking at three different elements: **Content (including Grammar), Style, and Research.** You will receive a grade in each of these areas, and these grades will then be averaged together for your final essay grade. **You can get help from the Center for Academic Success/Academic Writing Center on the first floor of the Green Library.**

**Research**: refers to the information in your paper. Is it correct? Is it detailed? Do you demonstrate basic knowledge of the religious tradition from which the concept is taken? Is this knowledge evident in your description? You must use at least three academic sources in your paper. One of them must be a book reference. **Style** refers to how that information is presented. This includes the way the information is organized and language skills such as spelling, grammar, and proper sentence structure.

**Argument**: refers to the quality of your analysis, how well you support your argument.

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COURSE POLICIES

Some of this material may be new, personal or controversial, so please maintain an open-minded and considerate attitude, allowing others time to reflect and communicate. Keep in mind that in-class and online discussions are public. Be cautious with your words and your sources. Respect others’ privacy and do not share class conversations with others outside of class. Recognize that fellow students may not wish to give personal opinions about some topic.

**LATE PAPERS**
Late papers will not be accepted. If a student has an approved, documented excuse, late papers may be accepted with a penalty of 10 points per day for up to three days, after which papers will not be accepted for any reason.

**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 (0 points) for the
plagiarized assignment, and possibly for the course. Please be aware: Previously
submitted papers are not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are
retaking this class. You may not “reuse” papers.

EXTRA CREDIT
Review a movie featuring the interaction of two or more religions interact or conflict and
write a six paragraph reaction paper describing the role that religion plays in the story or
event. Focus on the ways in which religious beliefs or practices influence the plot or
meaning of the movie. Do not tell the whole story of the movie, but just enough so that
your points are clear. The movie can be based on a real situation but should not be a
documentary or a movie specifically about a religion or a religious figure. If in doubt
about your selection, ask the instructor for approval. The extra credit paper is worth up
to an extra 15 points. All extra credit reports are due no later than April 18.

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE
As a global learning course students will be expected to meet the following objectives through
text readings, assignments and class discussions.

- Students will be able to engage the topics, drawing on diverse scholarly or cultural
  perspectives
- Students will be able to assess the ways in which global developments and the practice of
  religions interact
- Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think through contemporary global
  religious issues critically and creatively.
## COURSE CALENDAR (Provisional)

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<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text (Required weekly Readings)</th>
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<td>Week 1-Jan 11th</td>
<td>Class introductions, introduction to the course, reviewing and fully familiarizing ourselves with the course Syllabus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2-Jan 18th</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> What is Religion and ways of Studying Religion.</td>
<td>Chapters 1&amp;2</td>
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<td>Week 3-Jan 25th</td>
<td><strong>Universal forms of Religious experience and Expression</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td><em>The sacred and the Holy</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4-Feb 1st</td>
<td><strong>The Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression:</strong> Sacred Symbols, Myth and Doctrine</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 8th</td>
<td><em>Sacred Ritual</em></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Sacred Scripture</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Feb 22nd</td>
<td><em>Society and the Sacred</em></td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>Deity, Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate Reality</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td><em>Views of the Human Problem</em></td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>March 23rd</td>
<td>Theodicy: Encountering Evil</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>Soteriology: Ways and Goals of Salvation and Liberation</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 8th</td>
<td>Secularization-New Religious Revitalization-Contemporary Religious Fundamentalism</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>April 15th</td>
<td>Contemporary Challenges to Traditional Religion: The Status and the Roles of Women-Relations Between Religion and the State</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
<td>April 23rd</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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