Instructor:
Dr. Albert Wuaku
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone:(305) 348-0112
Email: wuakua@fiu.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**
This course explores religion from a sociological and anthropological perspective. Students will examine the ways in which sociologists and anthropologists try to explain the phenomenon of religion [ that is, religious beliefs, religious behavior, and religious institutions]. The course exposes students to a range of sociological and anthropological theories that explore the origins of religion as a social and cultural phenomenon and the interplay between religious belief, ritual, and religious institutions and their social and cultural contexts. Note that this is not a course in theology! We will not focus much attention on the content of beliefs and practices of specific religious traditions. Our interest is in the social and cultural dimensions of the phenomenon of religion.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
This course has Four objectives:

- To introduce students to socio-cultural concepts relevant to the understanding of religion as a dimension of societal life.
- To examine the dynamics of the relationship between religion and other aspects of society such as politics and the economy.
- To develop critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating theoretical perspectives on religious belief and action.
- To encourage students to apply socio-anthropological concepts in the understanding of their personal religious lives and past and contemporary religious issues in their societies.

**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
There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXTBOOK
Religion in Society: A Sociology of Religion (8th Ed)
Ronald L. Johnstone
Prentice Hall (2007)
0131884077
9780131884076
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 email.

The email feature is external communication that allows users to send emails to users enrolled in the course including the instructor and other students. Emails are sent to the student's FIU email on record.

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

All students are expected to use their FIU e-mail address/account for course correspondence. Like Blackboard, you are expected to check your FIU e-mail at least every other day for the duration of this course.

All e-mails sent to the instructor should reflect a professional manner and adhere to the following format:
Subject Line/Heading: Place your question/comment in the subject heading.
Also identify this class (Web Class 3100),
Text: The text of the message should begin with Dear Dr. Wuaku. The message should follow and end with
the students full name.

Example E-mail: Below is an example of the format I expect from e-mail inquiries.

From: Joe Doe doee@fiu.edu (Use FIU email address/account)
To: Albert Wuaku wuakua@fiu.edu
Subject: Textbook (Web Class 3100)

Dear Dr. Wuaku,

I have a question about the textbook. Do we have to buy it from the bookstore or can we order it online? I
look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Joe Doe.

Please remember you can also call me on 305-348-0112 if you need to speak with me.

DISCUSSION FORUMS
Throughout the semester the instructor will post messages to the discussion board that require a response or
activity from each student. Each post will be graded. Each discussion is worth 25 points. To receive all
possible points, a posting must be on time, be easy to read, free of careless mistakes, and appropriately
address the issue(s) or question(s) presented by the instructor. Also each student must address or respond to
viewpoints of at least three others in the class.

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

QUIZZES
There will be a multiple choice quiz or essay assignment after each topic or combination of topics. Each
assignment will be worth a total of 25 points. Each essay assignment will consist of 1, 2, 3 or 4 essay
questions out of which a student will be required to answer a specified number of questions. If the chosen
question has sub-divisions [e.g questions 1 a, 1 b, etc] the student must address all questions in the
subdivisions to be awarded full points for the question. A student has only 3 attempts at answering the
multiple choice questions. The highest score will be recorded.

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.

ASSIGNMENTS
The essay questions will be based on the lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings. The purpose of
these essays is to test the student’s knowledge of the vocabulary, issues, theoretical perspectives and the
ability to apply the ideas covered to the understanding of lived religious experience.

How to respond to essay questions:

All essay questions must be thoroughly answered. A thorough response is one that shows evidence of
familiarity with the text and the power-point notes and shows the student’s own originality. The points in
the essay must be discussed thoroughly and illustrated with practical examples from the readings or the
author’s own experiences. The essay must be written in grammatically correct prose. It must be very well
structured and organized. YOU WILL SCORE A ZERO IF YOU SUBMIT WORK THAT IS POORLY WRITTEN.
Read the questions ahead of time. Read the text and power point notes and draft your responses. Read the question again to make sure you are on the right course. Proof read your work before you submit it.

**FINAL GRADE**
The Final Grade will be determined by a tally of points scored throughout the semester. These points will be converted into percentages [that is, Points scored by student/total number of points [200] x 100]. Please keep printed copies of all assignments and graded material. If you cannot produce your class material in a grade dispute, the grade recorded in the instructor's grade book will take precedent.

Students are required and responsible for all assigned text readings and material from Blackboard. Students are expected to check the Announcement and Assignment sections of Blackboard for this class at least every other day. Students who take this course are expected to have the skills necessary to complete all assignments. Essay Assignments must not be sent as attachments to the professor. They must be posted in the Assignment drop box. I will not grade them if you send them to me as attachments. If you have computer technology questions during the semester, you should contact the FIU Computer Help Desk.

Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if and whenever necessary.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays and Multiple Choice Quizzes</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81 - 83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 80</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 - 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61 - 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71 - 73</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module</td>
<td>Chapter and Tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>There are no assignments this week. Class introductions and acquisition of textbooks.</td>
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| Week 2     | **Chapter 1 & 2: Introduction to Sociology of Religion & The sources of Religion**  
Read Chapter 1 and 2.  
Read the corresponding Lecture summaries/supplements (located in the Course Content section of Blackboard).  
**Quiz 1 Due:** jan 19 at 11:55pm |
| Week 3     | Start reading Chapter 3 – “Religion as a group phenomenon” & Chapter 5 – “Becoming Religious”  
There are no assignments this week. |
| Week 4     | Based on Chapter 3 - Religion as a group phenomenon & Chapter 5 - Becoming Religious  
**Quiz 2 Due:** feb 2nd at 11:55pm |
| Week 5     | There are no assignments this week.                                                                                                               |
| Week 6     | **Discussion based on Chapter 3 - Religion as a group phenomenon**  
Deadline feb 16th at 11:55pm |
| Week 7     | Read Chapter 4 on the church/sect continuum.  
**Essay 1** based on Chapter 4 on the church/sect continuum, due feb 23rd 11:55 pm. |
<p>| Week 8     | <strong>Watch the Documentary movies “The People’s Temple” and “The Secret Swami Satya Sai Baba” [a 2004 BBC documentary] and respond to the discussion questions. Due on march 2, 11:55 pm</strong> |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Module</strong></th>
<th><strong>Chapter and Tasks</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Read Chapters 6 &amp; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>march 3rd-march 9th</td>
<td><strong>Essay 2</strong> based on Chapters 6 &amp; 9, due march 9th, 11:55pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>march 10th-march 16th</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Read Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>march 17th-march 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 3 Due: march 23rd</strong> 11:55pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>march 24th –April 2</td>
<td><strong>Essay 3 Due: April 2 at 11:55pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Read Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
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<td>April 3-April 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td><strong>Essay 4</strong>, based on Chapters 12 &amp; 13, April 16th at 11: 55pm</td>
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<td>April 10-April 16th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Week for completing all Quizzes and Late Essays</td>
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<td>April 17th to 23rd</td>
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