FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2014

| REL 3308 | B52
Studies in World Religions
Venue: AC1-RM-135

Days: W
Time: 5-7:45pm

Biscayne Bay Campus

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This comparative religions course examines the world's major religions, both ancient
and contemporary, from historical, psychological, sociological, anthropological and
archeological perspectives. We will explore the various myths, rituals, symbols,
scriptures, festivals and spiritual leaders of indigenous and tribal communities,
Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and New Religious Movements
(including New Age).

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Understand the key underlying beliefs and principles of the major
  World religions.
- Appreciate the early bases and origins of religion among Indigenous Peoples and
  Shamanic cultures.
- Discern the major similarities and differences between Eastern and Western religions,
including cultural and historical contexts, as well as local, national and/or international contexts.

- Be aware of the broad movements and developments in religious belief and practices from ancient to contemporary times.
- Critically engage the issue of religious diversity in national and international context (Global Engagement).
- Analyze issues in the field of religions studies from multiple approaches (Global Perspective).
- Evaluate the interrelationship between his/her own and others’ religious views as they relate to understanding other cultures and solving common problems (Global Awareness).

EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE
This class meets once a week: Wednesday 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
COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AND OTHER MATTERS

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

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WEIGHTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1 site visit (due Feb 24th)</td>
<td>Points -100 percentage 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 Midterm (due March 7) 50</td>
<td>Points-100 percentage-20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2 Appiah Analysis (due April 7)</td>
<td>Points -100 percentage-20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 Final (April 23) 50 multiple choice questions</td>
<td>Points -100 Percentage 20%</td>
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Syllabus is Provisional and is subject to change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class attendance/punctuality and participation (a requirement)</th>
<th>Points 50 percentage 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Points 50 percentage 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Points 500 percentage-100</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 62</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59</td>
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

FORMAT FOR ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE AND EXPECTATIONS

The essays will be turned in to blackboard. Information on this will be given in class. Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com electronic receipt (a confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

You will need to do research 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.

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.

The Midterm Exam (Exam 1) and Final Exam (Exam 2) are in-class, 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 prepared for class discussion.

ESSAYS

Essay 1 (Site Visit)

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) 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.

Essay 1 (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 should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly.
The Site Visit is worth 100 points.

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis)
The student will analyze the article ‘The Case for Contamination’ by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis includes a discussion on Blackboard Discussion Group and a written essay. The essay should be 1200-1500 words and ci
4: 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.

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
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.

5: 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.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FIU’s policies and procedures are important to the quality of your education.

EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE
This course requires a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline skills that can make it quite demanding for some students.

COURSE CALENDAR (Provisional)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text (Required weekly Readings)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1-Jan 8th</td>
<td>Class introductions, introduction to the</td>
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course, reviewing and fully familiarizing ourselves with the course Syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Topic: Introduction to World Religions- Definition of Religion Basic religions and world religions in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, etc.</th>
<th>Why are there Religions? Perspectives on Religion</th>
<th>Chapter 1 (p. 3-25) Chapter 1 of Religions of the World, by Hoppe and Woodward And Chapter 1 of Fisher’s Living Religion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(INDIGENOUS/NATIVE RELIGIONS) Topic: Native American Religions</td>
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<td>Hoppe &amp; Woodward, Religion’s of the World Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Hoppe &amp; Woodward, Religions of the World Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Religions of Africa Topic: African Religions (Zulu, Yuroba, Fon etc) and African Diasporan Religions (Vodou, and Lucumi/Santeria)</td>
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<td>Jan 22nd</td>
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### Syllabus

Syllabus is Provisional and is subject to change

| Week 5 | RELIGIONS OF INDIA  
Hinduism | Hoppe & Woodward  
Chapter 4 |
|---|---|---|
| **Week 6**  
**Sept. 17th-21st 2012** | Religions of India - Buddhism | Hoppe & Woodward  
Chapter 6 |
| **Week 7** | Religions of India - Sikhism  
*Group 5 Presentation* | Hoppe & Woodward  
Chapter 8 |
| **Week 8** | Religions of India - Jainism | Hoppe & Woodward  
Chapter 8 |
| **Week 9**  
**Midterm-Exam due by 11:59pm on Oct. 12th 2012 via turnitin.com and moodle** | **Part 1 (C) Japanese Religions**  
Topic: Shinto | Hoppe & Woodward  
Chapter 7 and 9 |
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th><strong>Chinese Religions</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Topic: RELIGIONS ORIGINATING IN THE MIDDLE EAST</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Judaism</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST - Christianity</td>
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<td>Topic: Islam</td>
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<td><em>Group 10 Presentation</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST ISLAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td><strong>Topic: Sects and Cults (New Religious Movements)</strong></td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Chapters 12 and 13 Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26th-30th 2012</td>
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<td>Class Ends (Dec. 1st)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16</th>
<th>Final Exams in Class Take Final Exams 20 questions (both Multiple Choice and written)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3rd-7th 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAMS 12/15/2012 Time is 9:45am-11:45 am</td>
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**Chapter 2** Native American Religions

**Chapter 3** African Religions

**Religions Originating in India**

**Chapter 4** Hinduism

**Chapter 5** Jainism

**Chapter 6** Buddhism

**Chapter 7** Sikhism

**Religions Originating in China and Japan**

**Chapter 8** Chinese Religions
Chapter 9 Shinto

Religion Origination in the Middle East

Chapter 10 Zoroastrianism

Chapter 11 Judaism

Chapter 12 Christianity

Chapter 13 Islam

Chapter 14 Baha’i (Online Bonus Chapter)

Glossary

Credits