

FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
REL 2011 B52
Spring-2015 Religion: Interpretation and Analysis

Instructor Gregory Pope
Tu-Thrs 11:00- 12:15PM
Email: GPope65310@aol.com

Texts:

Ishmael, Daniel Quinn, ISBN 0-553-37540-7

White Women's Christ, Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response, Jacquelyn Grant, ISBN 1-55540-303-4

Spirituality and World Religions, George E. Saint-Laurent, ISBN 0-7674-1655-4

Videos: The Great Religions of the World (A supplement to the Saint-Laurent text.)

Course Objectives:

- **Students will be able to identify the relationship between religion and culture.
- **Students will be able to identify the function of religion in different socio-political contexts.
- **Students will be able to comprehend the dangers inherited in an “absolute” theology.
- **Students will be able to construct a competent argument for choosing a global perspective of religion as the choice for fully understanding the sacred.
- **Students will be able to understand their embedded religious views over against other world religions.
- **Students will be able to identify the transformative nature of religions under the impact of a sacred world view.

Course Regulations and Procedures:

- 1) If late arrivals become disruptive or frequent, the professor reserves the right to turn away those who arrive more than fifteen minutes late.
- 2) No extra work will be accepted to compensate for low grades in the regular course work, or for missed work.

3) Late papers will be debited one letter grade for each class day late.

4) The grading scale is:

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 – 92	xxxxxxxxxxxx
B+ = 87 – 89	B = 84 – 86	B- = 80 – 83
C+ = 77 – 79	C = 74 – 76	C- = 70 – 73
D+ = 67 – 69	D = 64 – 66	D- = 60 – 63
F = 0 - 59		

5) Assignments graded:

- 40% Site Visit Presentation and Research Paper (Oral and Written @ 20% each)
- 20% Research Project
- 20%.....Essay
- 15%.....Final Exam
- 5% ...Class Participation and Attendance

Assignments:

There will be a site visit presentation, a research project, an essay, and a final exam... **All papers should be double space with 12' font.**

Site Visit Presentation:

Site Visit (Oral Presentation): Students will be divided into groups. Each group will visit a religious site that has been assigned to them by the Instructor, and observe a ritual and then give an oral presentation on that ritual in the class. This presentation will be about your experience only.

Site Visit (Written Presentation): Students will research the ritual that they observed during their site visit and write a 7-9 page scholarly paper about that ritual. This is paper must be objective. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Research Project: Student will read the article “A Case for Contamination” and write a 7-9 page research paper either supporting or condemning globalization. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Essay: Student will choose any topic that is associated with the oppression/liberation of Women (abortion, fair-wages, equal treatment) and write a 7-9 page critical paper highlighting how religion may contribute to this treatment. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Final Exam will be on the material covered in class: lectures and readings. The exam will be definition of terms, fill in the blanks and essays.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Plagiarism is literary theft and is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgements, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker. This includes material found on the Internet. Plagiarism includes the unauthorized copying of software and the violation of copyright laws. Plagiarism will result in an F on the paper and likely in the class as well. It is also grounds for expulsion from the university.

Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Cheating includes falsifying reports and documents. Cheating on exams will result in zero awarded to both papers (so keep your paper covered).

Attendance:

Class attendance and class participation are ways to receive extra credit. Also, pop quizzes will be given during random class periods; as well as, some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are not in the textbooks. In addition, your grade will be lowered a letter if you have more than three unexcused absences.

Incomplete Grades:

An Incomplete grade is to be given only to the student who has been regularly attending class and has completed most of the class work, but has a serious emergency at the end of the term.

Internet:

You are encouraged to use the Internet- although, you must be careful and thoughtful when interpreting the data found on the web sites. Remember, the sites with the word “gov/ edu/ org” or usually good sites. This information will be covered further during visit to the library.

**FIU RELIGIOUS STUDIES
DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

January	13	Introduction
	15	Ishmael, Section 1 & 2 (Lecture)
	20	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	22	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
	27	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	29	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
February	03	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
	05	Library (Site Visits should be completed)
	10	Lecture on writing a Research Papers
	12	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Lecture)
	17	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Class Discussion)
	19	Video
	24	Jewish Spirituality (Group 1 Oral Presentation)
	26	Video
March	03	Islamic Spirituality (Group 2 Oral Presentation)
	05	Video
	17	Hindu, Spirituality (Group 3 Oral Presentation)
	19	Video
	24	Buddhist Spirituality (Group 4 Oral Presentation)
	26	Video (Written Presentation Due)
	31	Video
April	02	Grant, White Women's Christ
	07	Grant, White Women's Christ
	09	Grant, White Women's Christ (Research Paper Due)
	14	Grant, White Women's Christ
	16	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
	23	Grant, Black Women's Jesus (Essay Due)

30 Final Exam @ 9:45 – 11:45 AM on Wednesday