

REL 2011 U02 - ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RELIGION- SPRING 2015

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Class Hours: TU-TH. 11-12:15
Class Room: Chem & Physics 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of Religion: Analysis and Interpretation will use text readings, in-class participation and multimedia to explore basic concepts in the study of religion. This format's scope includes the exploration of concepts such as deity, cosmology and myth, ritual, scripture, ethics and salvation/liberation. The student will analyze religious phenomena as psychological, sociological and anthropological forces in the history of humanity. Each concept will be introduced through the textbook, class lectures, student presentations, videos, Internet sources and discussions. 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 in a midterm exam and a final exam. Two essays will develop the student's critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For the first essay, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of his/her own tradition. For the second essay, the student will read and review an article on religion and globalization. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

Readings	Creative activities/ Projects	Note taking
Lecture, Tests		Discussion
Writing assignments	Video resources	Group Work

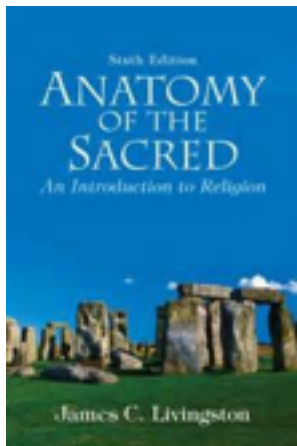
COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions.

- Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.
- Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols.
- 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)

REQUIRED TEXT



Religions of the World, 12th edition (2012) Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward

ISBN 978-0-205-158607

ISBN 0-205-15860-9

* Other reading materials will be provided by the instructor.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE

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. 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.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place in class, in Blackboard, and through FIU email. The best method to communicate with your instructor privately is through email. Appointments can be made on request. Please contact the instructor immediately if a serious situation arises which will impact student performance.

GORDON RULE REQUIREMENT

As this is a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write a minimum of two major assignments. Each paper will be 1500-2000 words and will be submitted through Turnitin. All source material must be cited correctly using MLA Style and long quotes should be avoided. Please be aware that papers with an originality score of over 35% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points).

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a Global Learning course, students will be meet the following objectives through text readings, assignments, and class discussions:

1. Students will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.
2. Students will be able to assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions
3. Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.

DISCUSSION AND PRIVACY

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 topics.

EXAMS

The Midterm Exam (Exam 1) and Final Exam (Exam 2) are in-class, time-restricted examinations. Each exam has 50 objective questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points (2 points per question) and 15% of the final grade. Students will need a green Scantron and a pencil for each exam.

ESSAYS

Essays will be turned into Turnitin.com via Assignments in Blackboard. It is not necessary to create a separate Turnitin account. 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. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard. The Site Visit is worth 15% of the final grade.

Site Visit Presentation: The student will share his or her fieldwork experience with the class. This is 5% of your final grade. Tip: Keep a journal to help your memory remain fresh. Tell us about:

- Entry/Access
- Interaction (interviews)
- Obstacles
- Main impressions (important details) -What did you learn?

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) -

Option 1- Make use of your creativity and propose your own topic. Be sure you get cleared before you embark on your research. Write a 5-7-page paper, double-spaced, 12-size font. Use five academic sources to support and elaborate on your theses.

Option 2- (Appiah Analysis) - The student will analyze the article 'The Case for Contamination' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The essay is worth 10% of the final grade. The Appiah Analysis should be 750-1000 (3 to 4 pages double- spaced) words and cited correctly.

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 PRESENTATIONS:

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 on 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 and is 10% of the final grade.

EXTRA CREDIT

Creative writing: Develop a short story where you present characters that represent two different religions. The story must include in its plot rituals, symbols, scriptures (sacred texts), festivals, teachings (i.e. the eight fold path, the pillars of Islam, etc.) among other aspects that we learned in class. (2-5 Pages).

Poetry: Include all the aforementioned topics. Make sure the poem has a rhyme and a regular meter. The piece must be at least four stanzas. Remember the Vedas and Zoroaster's Gathas appear to be composed in poetic form.

Song: Include all the aforementioned topics. Make it at least 2-3 minutes long.

Photography/ Visual Art (painting, drawing): Make sure you explain your interpretation in a paragraph.

Movie Review: Review a movie and write a five- paragraph reaction paper describing the role that religion plays in the story or event. Focus on religious symbols, rituals, myths or 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 selection must be approved by the instructor. The extra credit paper is worth an extra 20 points.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	SCALE	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay 1- Site Visit (March 17)	100	20%
Essay 2. (April 9)	100	20%
MIDTERM (March 3)	100	15%
FINAL (April 30)	100	15%
Thirteen Weekly Chapter Quizzes	130	10%
Presentations	50	10%
Participation and Attendance	50	10%
Total	550	100%

The extra credit is worth up to an extra 5 points. All extra credit reports are due no later than April 1. Be creative, respectful and take this opportunity not just for the extra points, but also to leave a strong positive message. Have fun!

GRADING

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	93 - 100	B-	80 - 82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 - 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 - 72	F	< 60

CALENDAR **Please Note:** Schedule and assignments subject to change by instructor.

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	
<p>1 Jan 13-15 Section I - The Study of Religion</p> <p>Topic: What is religion?</p>	<p>Introductions, syllabus review, class plan</p>	<p>Readings lecture, organize presentations</p>	<p>Chapter 1 p. 1-14</p> <p>Start your Site Visit research early!</p>
<p>2 Jan 20-22 Section I - The Study of Religion</p> <p>Topic: Ways of studying religion</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion,</p>	<p>Chapter 2 p. 15-34</p>
<p>3 Jan 27-29 Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>Topic: The sacred and the holy</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p> <p>Film: BLACKROBE</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 3 p. 35-52</p>
<p>4 Feb 3-5 Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>Topic: Sacred symbol, myth and doctrine</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 4 p. 53-73</p>

<p>5 Feb 10-12</p> <p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>Topic: Sacred ritual</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p> <p>Film: LUTHER</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 5 p. 74-95</p>
<p>6 Feb 17-19</p> <p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>Topic: Sacred scripture</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 6 p. 96-123</p>
<p>7 Feb 24-26</p> <p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>Topic: Society and the sacred</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 7 p. 124-150</p>
<p>8 March 3-5</p>	<p>Midterm Exam Covers materials from Week 1-7.</p>	<p>Readings lecture,</p> <p>Film: ROMERO</p>	<p>Chapter 8 p. 151-182</p>

<p>March 10-12 SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>
<p>9 March 17-19 Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Deity, or concepts of the divine/ultimate reality</p>	<p>Readings lecture, Essay 1 (Site Visit) due by 11:59 pm on March 19, via Blackboard Assignments</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 9 p. 183-210</p>
<p>10 March 24-26 Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Cosmology</p>	<p>Readings lecture,</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter10 p.211-234</p>
<p>11 March-April 31-2 Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: The human problem</p>	<p>Readings lecture Film: GANDHI</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 11 p.235-258 April 1, Extra Credits are due</p>

<p>12 April 7-9</p> <p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</p> <p>Topic: Encountering evil</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p> <p>Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) due by 11:59 pm on April 9, via Blackboard Assignments</p>	<p>Chapter 12 p. 259-286</p>
<p>13 April 14-16</p> <p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</p> <p>Topic: Ethics</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 13 p.287-338</p>
<p>14 April 21-23</p> <p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</p> <p>Topic: Salvation and liberation</p>	<p>Readings lecture</p>	<p>Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 14 p.338-</p> <p><i>Note: 2 chapters next week, read ahead!</i></p>
<p>15 April 28-30</p>	<p>Review week</p>	<p>FINAL 9:45-11:45 AM.</p>	<p>Chapter 15 - p.398</p>

RELIGIOUS SITES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS THAT THE SITE VISIT AND REPORT MUST BE DONE FOR A RELIGIOUS TRADITION THAT IS NOT THE STUDENT'S OWN. I strongly recommend to start the fieldwork early, and that you attend at least 2-3 times to have a successful report.

ISLAMIC: the times to go are Fridays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Female students can bring a scarf with them if they don't want to stand out, but it is not required.

Miami Gardens Mosque (Sunni) 4305 N.W. 183 street
Miami, Florida 33055

Mosque of Miami (Sunni) 7350 N.W. 3rd Street Miami, Florida 33126
305-261-7622

Masjid Al-Ansar (Sunni) 5245 N.W. 7th Avenue Miami, Florida 33127
305-757-8741

Islamic School of Miami Masjid al-Noor (Sunni) 11699 SW 147 Ave Miami, FL
33196

(305) 408-0400

Tasnim Uddin, Principal of School

Friday: 1:30 pm, Islam School on Sundays: 10am-12pm (behind the Exxon gas station)

Islamic Jafferia Association Imambara (Shia) 10554 N.W. 132nd Street
Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016
(305) 557-6835

[http://www .ijamiami.org/](http://www.ijamiami.org/)

Muhammad's Mosque # 29 (Nation of Islam) 5660 N.W. 7th Ave.
Miami, Florida
305-756-9136

BAHAI

FIU Bahai Club 305-436-2490

Bahai Faith (South) 9300 S. Dixie Hwy. Miami, Florida 305-570-8886

Bahai Faith (North) 4365 Rock Island Rd. Ft. Lauderdale
(North of Commercial) 954-524-4084

BUDDHIST

(Nichiren Buddhist)

Sokka Gakkai International Miami Community Center 20000 S.W. 36th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33332 954-349-5200

Avalokitesvara Buddhist Study Center (Buddhist) 7550 S.W. 82nd Court
Miami, Florida 33143
305-271-6361

267-8000

International Zen Institute of Florida (Buddhist) Dharma House
3860 Crawford Avenue
Miami, Florida 33133

305-448-8969

Wat Buddharangsi Temple (Thai, Buddhist) 15200 S.W., 240th Street
Homestead, Florida
305-245-2702

Amida Temple ("Pure Land" Buddhist) c/o Kuang-Hsi Wu
12815 S.W. 119 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33186

305-385-2866

International Dharma Center (Buddhist) P.O. Box 141728
Coral Gables, Florida
33114-1728

305-267-8000 (Ileana Davis)

Kagyü Shedrup Chöling (Tibetan Buddhist)

1905 Monroe Street
Hollywood, Florida 33020 954-920-1346

HINDU: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Shiva Vishnu Temple 5661 Dykes Rd. (S.W. 160th Ave)
Pembroke Pines (Davie)
954-689-0471 webmaster@shivavishnu.org

(I-75 north, exit at Sheridan, go west to Dykes Road, then go north for about a mile, temple on the left)

The South Florida Hindu Temple 13010 Griffin Road
Davie, Florida
954-438-3675

info@sfht.org

Hare Krishna Temple 3220 Virginia St. Coconut Grove, Florida 305-442-7218

SIKH: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Sikh Society of Florida 16000 Sterling Rd. Pembroke Pines, Florida
954-680-0221

(Same directions as to Shiva Hindu Temple, but closer to Sheridan on Dykes Road)

JAIN

Jain Center of South Florida
1960 N. Commerce Parkway #11 Weston, FL 33326
Here is Direction Link for Jain center. <http://jaincentersfl.com/direction.html>

JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN

Synagogues: Friday evenings, near Sundown; and Saturday mornings, 8:00 a.m. only.

Christian churches: 11:00 a.m. morning service. Consult Yellow Pages for synagogue or church nearest where you live.

Students are encouraged to do detective work and find representatives of the other major world religions in Miami or the South Florida area: Taoism, Confucianism (Chinese), Shinto (Japanese), and Zoroastrianism (Persian/Iranian, and mostly in Bombay, India).

