

# Spring 2015 - REL 2011 U11 - RELIGION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Class meets on M-W-F in Chem. & Physics 111 at 3 pm.

## PROFESSOR INFORMATION



**Instructor: Joseph Holbrook**

Office Hours: M-W-F: 11 AM to 12 NOON or by appointment

Emails: [jholbroo@fiu.edu](mailto:jholbroo@fiu.edu)

[Jholb001@fiu.edu](mailto:Jholb001@fiu.edu)

Telephone: (786) 505-7516 (office hours only)

## 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 be introduced to each concept 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.

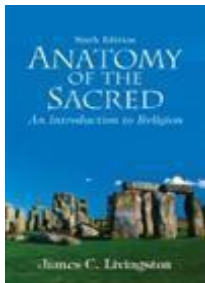
## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students 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.
- Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
- Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
- Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
- Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community.

## TEXTBOOK



### ***Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion***

James C. Livingston

Prentice Hall, 6th Edition

ISBN 10: 013600380X

ISBN 13: 9780136003809

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

## EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This class meets three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 to 1:50 pm. Since the class is only fifty minutes long, 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. 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 DETAIL

### COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place in class, in Blackboard, and through email. The best method to communicate with your instructor privately is through blackboard messages. 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, with the first essay submitted in both a first and a second draft. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be submitted as a draft for 10% of the final grade and a revised final version will be resubmitted for an additional 10% of the final grade. Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) will be submitted in a final version for 10% of the final grade. Each paper will be 1000-1200 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 expected to 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

Keep in mind that in-class and online discussions are public. Be polite with your words and conscientious with 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.

## MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

The Midterm Exam (Exam 1) and Final Exam (Exam 2) are online, time-restricted examinations. Each exam has 50 multiple-choice or true/false questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points and 15% of the final grade. Students are expected to complete the exams on time by the appropriate due date.

## ESSAYS

Essay 1 (Site Visit Draft & Final Copy) and Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) 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 (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

Essay 1 (Site Visit – due Feb. 6) - The student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be handed in twice via Turnitin: First as a draft worth 10% of the final grade, and later as a revised final paper worth 10% of the final grade. The Site Visit should be **1,000-1,200** words (3 to 4 pages double-spaced) and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis – April 3) - The student will analyze the article 'The Case for Contamination' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis is worth 10% of the final grade. The Appiah Analysis should be **1,000-1,200** words (3 to 4 pages double-spaced) and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

## GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give one **group presentation** (5 minutes per person in the group) on a topic related to course readings. Guidelines will be given in class for the presentation on some portion of the course text. Additional information might include a demonstration, an explanation of a term/idea, a brief travel description/slide show, or a book review. Be creative and informative! The presentation will be worth 10% of the final grade. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation slots. If a student cannot attend on the day of the presentation, they may arrange with another student to switch slots, but please inform the instructor by email of changes to the schedule. If a student misses his/her presentation slot and there is no other available slot, the student will receive 0 points for the presentation.

## EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit options include 1) following the class twitter account; 2) contributing at least 10 comments to the class blog; or 3) review an approved film 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 1 percent of the final grade. All extra credit reports are due no later than April 20. The maximum number of extra credits that are possible are 3 points on the final grade or 1/3 of a grade level. Extra credits will also be given for students who follow the class twitter account @REL\_FIU or who make at least 10 comments (three complete sentences each) on the class religious studies blog:

<http://josenmiamireligion.blogspot.com/>

## COURSE POLICIES

### 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 percent for the first week, after which papers will not be accepted for any reason or they will be discounted by 50 percent at the professor's discretion.

### 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.

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance and Participation together are worth 10% of the final grade. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. Students with ten or more 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. Those who fall asleep in class will be asked to leave.

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.

## GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay 1 - Site Visit Draft (due Feb. 6)	100	10%
Essay 1 - Site Visit Revision (due Feb. 27)	100	15%
Exam 1 – MIDTERM (on March 4)	100	10%
Essay 2 - Appiah Analysis (due April 12)	100	10%
Exam 2 – FINAL (TBA, April 27 – May 1)	100	15%
15 Weekly Chapter Quizzes	150	10%
Group Presentation	50	10%
On-line discussions of films	50	10%
Participation & Attendance	50	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

## COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE	TOPIC	TEXT
Week 1 Jan. 12-16	<p><b>Section I - The Study of Religion</b>  <b>Topic: "What is religion?"</b></p> <p>Jan. 12: Introductions, syllabus review, class plan            Jan 14: Organize presentations            Jan 16: Lecture, "Why Religion?"  <i>Start your Site Visit research early!</i></p>	Chapter 1 p.1-14
Week 2 Jan. 19-23	<p><b>Section I - The Study of Religion</b>  <b>Topic: "Ways of studying religion"</b></p> <p>Jan. 19: Introduce "<i>The Mission</i>" Lecture "methods"            Jan. 21: Readings, Lecture discussion            Jan. 23: Lecture, discussion, chapter review</p>	Chapter 2 p.15-34
Week 3 Jan. 26-30	<p><b>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</b>  <b>Topic: "The sacred and the holy"</b></p> <p>Jan. 26: Readings lecture, discussion            Jan. 28: Readings lecture, discussion,            Jan 30: discussion, chapter review</p> <p><i>Film discussion forum of "The Mission" due Friday, Jan. 30</i></p>	Chapter 3 p.35-52
Week 4 Feb. 2 – 6	<p><b>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</b>  <b>Topic: "Sacred symbol, myth and doctrine"</b></p> <p>Feb. 2: Readings lecture, discussion            Feb. 4: Readings lecture, discussion,            Feb. 6: Class discussion, chapter review</p> <p><i>Essay 1 (Site Visit Draft) due by 11:59 pm on Feb. 6, at 11:55PM via Blackboard Assignments</i></p>	Chapter 4 p.53-73
Week 5 Feb. 9 – 13	<p><b>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</b>  <b>Topic: "Sacred ritual"</b></p> <p>Feb. 9: Readings lecture, student presentation            Feb. 11: Readings discussion,            Feb. 13: Class discussion, chapter review</p>	Chapter 5 p.74-95
Week 6 Feb. 16 – 20	<p><b>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</b>  <b>Topic: "Sacred scripture"</b></p> <p>Feb. 16: Readings lecture, student presentation            Feb. 18: Readings discussion, <i>Essay 1</i>            Feb. 20: In-class discussion of <i>Luther</i></p> <p><i>Online discussion forum of "LUTHER" due Sunday, Feb. 20 at midnight</i></p>	Chapter 6 p.96-123

<p>Week 7 Feb. 23-27</p>	<p><b>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</b> <b>Topic: “Society and the sacred”</b></p> <p>Feb. 23: Readings lecture, student presentation Feb. 25: Readings discussion, <i>Assignments</i> Feb. 27: Midterm Exam Review materials from Week 1-7.</p> <p><i>(Site Visit Revision) due by 11:59 pm on Feb. 27 via Blackboard</i></p>	<p>Chapter 7 p.124-150</p>
<p>Week 8 March 2 – 6</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic: “Deity, or concepts of the divine/ultimate reality”</b></p> <p>March 2: Readings lecture, March 4: Readings lecture, student presentation <i>MIDTERM (Chapters 1 – 7) due by 11:59 pm on March 4 via Blackboard</i> March 6: Student presentations , news discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 8 p.151-182</p>
<p>Week 9 March 9 – 13</p>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK</b></p>	<p>Read ahead/ or extra credits</p>
<p>Week 10 March 16 - 20</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic: “Cosmogony”</b></p> <p>March 16: Readings lecture, student presentation Introduce <i>GANDHI</i> March 18: Readings discussion, student presentation March 20: Student presentations, news discussion</p> <p><i>Film discussion forum of “GANDHI” due Friday night, March 20</i></p>	<p>Chapter 9 p.183-210</p>
<p>Week 11 March 23 - 27</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic: “The Human Problem”</b></p> <p>March 23: Readings lecture, student presentation March 25: Readings discussion, March 27: Appiah discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 10 p. 211-234</p>
<p>Week 12 March 30 – April 3</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic: “Theodicy: Encountering evil.”</b></p> <p>March 30: Readings lecture April 1: student presentation April 3: Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 11 p.235-258</p>
<p>Week 13 April 6 – 10</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic: “Ethics”</b></p> <p>April 6: Student presentations April 8: Readings, discussion, (Extra Credits due). April 10: Discussions, Introduce film: <i>Malcolm X</i></p>	<p>Chapter 12 p. 259-286</p>



	<p><i>Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) due by 11:59 pm on April 12, via Blackboard Assignments</i></p>	
<p>Week 14 April 13 – 17</p>	<p><b>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</b> <b>Topic:</b> “ Salvation and liberation”</p> <p>April 13: Readings lecture, student presentation April 15: Readings discussion, student presentation April 17: Discussion, salvation/Malcolm X</p> <p><i>Film discussion forum of “MALCOLM X” due Sunday night, April 17</i></p>	<p>Chapter 13 p. 287-338</p>
<p>Week 15 April 20 – 24</p>	<p><b>Section IV. The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity</b> <b>Topic:</b> “ Secularization and Pluralism,” “Contemporary Challenges”</p> <p>April 20: Readings lecture, student presentation April 22 : Readings discussion, and Review April 24: REVIEW</p>	<p>Chapters 14 &amp;15 p.338-398</p>
<p>FINAL EXAMS April 27 – May 1</p>	<p>Professor office hours, M-W-F from <b>11AM to 12 noon in GL 150.</b> <b>Final Exam: TBA</b> Covers chapters and weeks 8-15.</p>	