REL 3027 RVAA
Meditation and Mystical Traditions

Professor: Daniel Alvarez
Email: alvarezd@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course has been developed by the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies, with each professor lecturing on meditation and mysticism in his or her area of religious specialization. The course will examine meditation and mysticism within each of the major world religions, as well as within some indigenous religions. Each module consists of PowerPoint lectures by faculty, readings, a weekly quiz, brief weekly assignments (of which each student must submit four), a midterm and a final exam.

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" page to find out more information on this subject.

For detailed information about the technical requirements, please click here.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION
For detailed information about the specific limitations with the technologies used in this course, please click here.

For more information about Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment, click here.

For additional assistance please contact our Disability Resource Center.
COURSE PREREQUISITES
For information about prerequisites, click here.

TEXTBOOK

*Mysticism: Holiness East and West*
Denise Carmody and John Carmody
Oxford University Press (1996)

ISBN 10: 0195088190

*Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter the Ecological Phase*
Mary Evelyn Tucker
Open Court (2003)

ISBN 10: 0812695291
ISBN 13: 978-0812695298

Click here to buy 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

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**COURSE DETAIL**

**COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this course will take place via messages.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

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

**DISCUSSION FORUMS**

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

**QUIZZES**

Quizzes are open from Monday to Saturday each week. You may take each quiz twice, though the questions will usually be different because they are selected randomly from a large database. The purpose of the second attempt is to allow students who may have been disconnected from the Internet during a quiz to submit a complete quiz. Disconnection does happen; plan to make your first attempt a serious one.
If you know that you will be unable to take a quiz during a specific week, contact the instructor by Messages in advance, and the quiz may be opened so you may take it early. It is the responsibility of students to keep up with the readings and take the quizzes on time.

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**.

**Note**: Quiz resets will not be granted. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz.

Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.). This also applies to the Midterm and Final Exams.

The correct answers for quizzes will **not** be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers, in order to study for the midterm and final exams.

**EXAMS**

The Midterm Objective (Exam 1) & Final Objective (Exam 2) are both online, time-restricted examinations. They are in the Assessments area. The exams will have both objective and essay parts. Students have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of the Midterm and Final Exams. Only the quizzes are allowed to be attempted twice.

The essay topics for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability time.

The Midterm Essay and the Final Exam Essay should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

**IMPORTANT**: You must submit your Midterm Exam Essay and Final Exam Essay through Assignment Dropbox. Any students who submit their essays through the Assessments Area will not have their papers graded. The grade book will only take into account the papers submitted through Turnitin via Assignment Dropbox in Blackboard.

If you know you will not be able to take them on the scheduled days, make arrangements to take them in
advance of the scheduled days.

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**ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be ten (10) assignments posted, **but you will need to complete only four (4) of these.** The assignments will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Blackboard in the Assignment Dropbox Folder. Click on the link in the Assignments folder on the Course Content page. It is not necessary to create an account on Turnitin.com to submit this assignment.

Each assignment should be approximately 250-500 words, depending on the essay topic. Some of the assignments require longer responses than others.

These should not be written off the top of your head, but should demonstrate that they are informed by the readings and lectures. You need not agree with parts of the readings or lectures, but should be able to discuss the basis of your disagreement.

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.
Late work will not be accepted

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay and Objective (Exam 1)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay and Objective (Exam 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (Average)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Assignments (Average)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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LETTER GRADE RANGE

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<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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<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; 60</td>
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COURSE CALENDAR SUMMER A 2013 MAY 13-JUNE 21

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1.5</td>
<td>May 16-18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> Dr. Rey: <em>Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean</em></td>
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Full text available through Netlibrary. (Off campus, you must first login to the library webpage using the number on the back of your Panther Card) |
| Additional Readings TBA |
| View this week's assignment  
A2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism -Due May 18 1145pm |
| Quiz #2 (will remain open until end of 2nd week for late registration) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>May 19-21</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> Dr. Huchingson: <em>Meditation and Mysticism Among Native Americans</em>, I &amp; II.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 8  
William A. Young, *Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual* |
Traditions, chapters 1, 4, 5. Full text available through Netlibrary.

View this week’s assignment
A3 - Native American – Due May 25 1145pm

**Quiz #3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2.5</th>
<th>May 22-25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meditation and Mysticism in Indian Religions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> Dr. Katz: <em>Meditation and Mysticism in Theistic Hinduism</em>, I-III</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> <em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 2</td>
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**Quiz #4**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>May 26-28</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meditation and Mysticism in Daoism and Chinese Religions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> Dr. Heine: <em>Meditation and Mysticism in Chinese Religions</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> <em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 4</td>
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View this week's assignment.
A4 – Daoism- Due June 1 1145pm
(You must do four – how many have you done so far?)

**Quiz #5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3.5</th>
<th>May 29-June 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism / Zen Buddhism</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> Dr. Heine: <em>Intro to Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism, Meditation and Mysticism in Zen</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> <em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 3</td>
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View this week's assignment
A5 - Zen Mysticism Readings and Questions - Due June 1 1145pm
How many of the required four have you done?

**Quiz #6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>June 2-5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm (Exam 1)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available June 2, 12:00am – June 5, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take both parts: Objective and Essay</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4.5</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mysticism in Judaism, Sephardic Judaism &amp; Hasidic Judaism</strong></td>
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### June 6-8

**View:** Dr. Zohar: *Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism*  
*Dr. Stier: Hasidic Judaism*

**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 5

15 short "Additional Essays on Hasidism" by Immy Humes, which can be found [here](#).

These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see [here](#)).

**Note:** There is one error in the readings: In the essay titled "Inside the Community: A Holy Life," the author translates the Hebrew acronym for Chabad as "Wisdom, Learning, and Faith." The acronym actually stands for "Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding." Please make a note of this.

View this week's assignment  
A6 – Hasidic – Due June 12 – 1145pm

**Quiz #7 & Quiz #8**

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### Week 5  
June 9-12

**Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity**

**View:** Dr. Larson: *Mysticism in Early Christianity*, I & II

**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 6

Gregory of Nyssa, *Homily 6, On the Beatitudes* (pp. 90-91). Full text available through [Netlibrary](#).

View this week's assignment  
A7 - Early Christianity - Due June 12 – 1145pm

**Quiz #9**

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### Week 5.5  
June 13-16

**Mysticism in Catholicism & Protestantism**

**View:** Dr. Gudorf: *Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism*  
*Prof. Alvarez: Mysticism in Protestantism*

**Read:** Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (pp. 25-42). Full text available through [Netlibrary](#).  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignments and Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 6**<br>June 17-20 | **Meditation and Mysticism in Islam** & **Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions**  
**View:** Dr. Musa: *Meditation and Mysticism in Islam*  
Dr. Bauman: *Nature Mysticism*  
**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 7  
"Mystical Islam and Sufi Brotherhoods" in Islam: An Introduction by Annemarie Schimmel; 1992 (available [here](#))  
"What is Tasawwuf (Sufism)?) An Anonymous Persian Poem – translated by A. A. Godlas (available [here](#))  
"The Chapter on Dhikr" from at-Targhib wa at-Tarhib, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani , (available [here](#))  
Mary Tucker, *Worldly Wonder*, pp. 1-54  
**View** this week's assignment  
A10 - Islamic Assignment –Due June 20 11:45pm  
**Quiz #12 and Quiz 13** |
| **Week 6.5**<br>June 20-21 | **Final (Exam 2)**  
*Available June 20, 12:00am June 21, 11:45pm*  
*Take both parts: Objective and Essay* |