FIU Department of Religious Studies
Religion: Analysis and Interpretation
REL 2011 Section 2
Summer B 2013

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the study of religion. It is also a Gordon Rule course. Thus, a minimum of three written assignments is required. This course will involve a an essay exam, a site visit, a midterm, a final exam, and a term paper.

Course Objectives
• Strong focus on Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
• Discover the history, teachings, and practices of various religions and be able to interpret and explain the meaning and structure of a selected group of religious texts and practices of the various religions discussed in class
• Appreciate the diversity and similarities among different religions and be able to evaluate and describe the context, influence, and structure of these religious communities within a given society
• Improve students’ writing skills
• Fulfill Gordon Rule requirement

Required Reading

Textbook
• Religions of the World by Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark Woodward, 12th Edition

Instructor Information

Name Miss Jennell Botello
Class Hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday 9:30am – 11:45am
Class Room Chemistry and Physics 101
Email jbotel01@fiu.edu
Turnitin.com Class ID #: 6536725 Class Password: religion13
*All turnitin assignments are due at 11:59pm on the due date*

***ABSOLUTELY NO TAPE RECORDING DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED***
Course Requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Visit</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
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*** NO INCOMPLETES ARE GIVEN IN THIS CLASS ***

Course Policies

Midterm
The midterm (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The midterm focuses on the first half of the semester, which will be Native American Religions, Shinto, Hinduism, and Buddhism. ***No Make Ups***

Final
The final (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The final is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the midterm exam, which will be Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. ***No Make Ups***

Site Visit
Students will turn in a site visit paper worth (20%) of the overall grade. Students will attend a religious service from a religion that is not their own nor associated with their family members and write a formal report on the experience. The students will be given more detailed instructions and a list of suggested places during the first week of school. The paper will be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Term Paper
Students will turn in a term paper worth (15%) of the overall grade. The term paper is a research assignment on a topic relating to the course that particularly interests the student. The topic for the paper must receive the approval of the instructor before it is submitted. The term paper must be a minimum of 8 pages and no more than 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography or works cited page and the cover page. This paper is formal and must be typed, not hand-written, in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The margins should be 1-inch on all sides. The students will be emailed more
detailed instructions during the first week of class. This paper will also be submitted to 

**Essay Examination**
Students will be given a take home essay exam during the semester, which will be worth 
(15%). The essay exam is a formal paper that must be typed in Times New Roman font 
size 12 and double-spaced. The students must answer three questions and submit the 
answers to www.turnitin.com. The questions and extra reading material will be emailed a 
couple of weeks before the due date.

**Attendance**
Attendance is (10%) of the student’s grade. The student is allowed two absences for the 
semester without being penalized. Any absence after the two allowed ones will result in 
points being deducted from the student’s final grade. Attendance is strongly advised 
since the professor uses outside knowledge and material to supplement the book and 
make the lectures more complete. The attendance grade also includes tardiness and 
conduct in class. Those students who talk excessively, constantly enter and leave the 
classroom due to phone calls, text message continuously, listen to their ipods during 
lectures, and play on their laptops during class time will have their attendance score 
marked down. Students who are considered to be disruptive and disrespectful will be 
asked to leave and their attendance will be marked down. 
***Cell phones must be set to silent mode***

**Extra Credit (Movie Review)**
Students will pick a movie with a religious theme from a list that will be given in class 
and answer certain questions according to the movie chosen. The student is able to earn a 
total of 5 points to their lowest grade. The movies are placed on reserve on the 5th floor 
of the Green Library under the name Professor Botello. They can also be found on 
Netflix or your local video store. This assignment will also be submitted to 

**Syllabus**

2. [Wednesday – June 26] Native American Religions
3. [Friday – June 28] Shinto
4. [Monday – July 1] Shinto 
   Distribute Take Home Exam
6. [Friday – July 5] Hinduism

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3
   Take Home Exam Due

8. [Wednesday – July 10] Buddhism

9. [Friday – July 12] Buddhism


12. [Friday – July 19] Judaism

   Term Paper Due


15. [Friday – July 26] Christianity

   Site Visit Due

17. [Wednesday – July 31] Islam
   Extra Credit Due
   Last Day for Late Papers

18. [Friday – August 2] Final Exam

***** The Schedule Is Subject To Change. Any Changes Will Be Emailed *****

Cheating and Plagiarism

1. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions
2. Students found cheating on an exam will be given a 0 for the test
3. Students that are caught cheating repeatedly will be given an F for the class followed by disciplinary action
4. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment.
5. If the student has plagiarized the entire work then the student will be given a grade of F for the class followed by disciplinary actions
6. It is recommended to look over the University’s Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm
Email Information

1. Students must put the class name and time in the subject line. The student must also include their name and panther id in the email. This will guarantee a quicker reply.
2. The instructor will check her email every day. If multiple students email the same concern, then an email will be sent to all of the students addressing the issue.
3. Additional instructions and readings for assignments will be emailed throughout the semester

Make Up Tests and Late Papers

1. As stated above there are no make-up exams. It is recommended to plan accordingly to be available for the three exam dates.
2. Late papers will be accepted, but a grade deduction will be given for the lateness
3. Absolutely no late paper will be accepted after the final deadline for all papers (Wednesday July 31)

Attendance

1. Coming to class and signing in does not guarantee full attendance points
2. Attendance is a combination of attending class AND conduct in the classroom
3. Students who are disrespectful and disruptive to the professor and their fellow classmates will be asked to leave

Cell Phones and Laptops

1. Cell Phones must be set to silent mode
2. Laptops used for social media purposes or entertainment will not be tolerated. If this happens the student will have to take notes the old fashion way with a pencil/pen and paper.

Additional Information

1. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of all papers submitted to the instructor.
2. MLA, APA, and Chicago writing styles are accepted for the written assignments.
3. The University’s last day to drop courses or withdraw without incurring a financial liability is July 1.
4. Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund of tuition July 10
5. Deadline to drop a course with a DR grade is July 22