FIU Department of Religious Studies  
Studies in World Religions  
REL 3308 Section 1  
Summer B 2013

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion through the examination of the origins, teachings, and practices of selected world religions. This course will involve three exams, a journal, and a term paper.

Course Objectives

- Strong focus on Religions of Japan and China, Religions of India, and Religions of the Middle East
- Appreciate the diversity and similarities among different religious societies and cultures in both contemporary and historical perspectives
- Discover the history, teachings, and practices of various religious societies and cultures and be able to evaluate and interpret them in both national and international contexts
- Improve students’ writing skills

Recommended Reading

Textbook
- *Experiencing the World’s Religions* by Michael Molloy, 5th Edition

Instructor Information

Name: Miss Jennell Botello  
Class Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays Noon – 2:15pm  
Class Room: Chemistry and Physics 197  
Email: jbotel01@fiu.edu  
Turnitin.com: Class ID #: 6536532  
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

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</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>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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*** NO INCOMPLETES ARE GIVEN IN THIS CLASS ***

Course Policies

Test 1
The first test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The test focuses on the first part of the semester, which will be Religions of the Middle East.

***No Make Ups***

Test 2
The second test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The second test is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the first exam: Religions of India.

***No Make Ups***

Test 3
The third test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The third test is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the second exam: Religions of China and Japan.

***No Make Ups***

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 www.turnitin.com.

Journal
Students will turn in a journal worth (15%) of the overall grade. The journal is an assignment in which the student reports on current events in the news that involve religion and societies around the world. The student will be required to have ten entries by the end of the semester. The student will cut out or print the article, place it inside a binder or a duo-tang folder, and write a two page summary and reflection about the article. The journal entries must be typed and double spaced. The journals will be collected towards the end of the semester.

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 emailed during the first week of 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 www.turnitin.com.

Syllabus

1. [Monday – June 24] Introduction and Requirements
2. [Wednesday – June 26] Zoroastrianism
3. [Friday – June 28] Judaism
5. [Wednesday – July 3] Islam
6. [Friday – July 5] Islam
7. [Monday – July 8] **Test 1**


9. [Friday – July 12] Hinduism

    **Term Paper Due**

11. [Wednesday – July 17] Buddhism

12. [Friday – July 19] Jainism

13. [Monday – July 22] **Test 2**

    **Journals Due (A-L)**

15. [Friday – July 26] Confucianism
    **Journals Due (M-Z)**

    **Extra Credit Due**

17. [Wednesday – July 31] Shinto
    **Last Day for Late Papers**

18. [Friday – August 2] **Test 3**

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

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

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](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