

REL 3027 RVAA MEDITATION AND MYSTICAL TRADITIONS

SUMMER 2016 RVAA

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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), and two exams, each consisting of multiple choice questions and an essay portion.

Note for summer courses:

Please remember that this course is a regular 15-week semester compressed into six weeks. Time management and organizational skills are key in helping you complete this course with minimal stress. Plan your weeks ahead, so that you do not miss fast approaching deadlines.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION POLICIES

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette 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](#) webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

For more information about prerequisites, [click here](#).

TEXTBOOK

Mysticism: Holiness East and West

Denise Carmody and John Carmody

Oxford University Press (1996)

0195088190

978-0195088199

Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter the Ecological Phase

Mary Evelyn Tucker

Open Court (2003)

0812695291

978-0812695298

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses 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

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **Email**.

It is recommended that students check their emails routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUIZZES (20%)

A weekly time-restricted, online quiz will be given based on the materials covered each week. **You can take each quiz two times, and the higher of the two attempts will be recorded.** Even if you do well on the first attempt, it is advisable to use both attempts. You will not receive the same quiz every time; the computer randomly chooses the questions from a quiz database. The objective questions in Exam 1 and Exam 2 will be taken directly from this database. Thus, the more times you take the quiz, the more questions you will receive and the better prepared you will be for the exams.

For the quizzes, you will have **20 minutes to complete 10 questions**. Each quiz will be open from Monday to Sunday, and you can take it on any of those days at any time.

Important Policy on Quiz Resets: 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.)

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.

If you know that you will be unable to take a quiz during a specific week, contact the instructor 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](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

EXAMS (60%)

Exam 1 and Exam 2 consist of both objective and essay portions. The objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 are both online, time-restricted examinations. They are in the Assessments area. Students have **only one attempt to complete the objective portions of the Exam 1 and Exam 2 unlike the quizzes.** Please make note of this important difference.

The essay topics for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability time. **The essay portions of these exams must be submitted to turnitin.com via Blackboard (you do not need to register separately with Turnitin.com).** Review the detailed [Turnitin Instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor. Please see the folder under Course Content labeled "Assignment Dropbox" for links.

The essays for Exam 1 and Exam 2 should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

ASSIGNMENTS (20%)

****STUDENTS MAY NOT SUBMIT WORK FROM A PREVIOUS SEMESTER OR FROM ANOTHER CLASS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT OR ANY OTHER ASSIGNMENT IN THIS COURSE. IT WILL BE FLAGGED FOR PLAGIARISM BY TURNITIN.**

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. Please review the detailed Turnitin [Instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

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.

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

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1.

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 Misconduct](#) if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

****STUDENTS MAY NOT SUBMIT WORK FROM A PREVIOUS SEMESTER OR FROM ANOTHER CLASS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT OR ANY OTHER ASSIGNMENT IN THIS COURSE. IT WILL BE FLAGGED FOR PLAGIARISM BY TURNITIN.**

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Midterm Objective and Essay (Exam 1)	30%
Final Objective and Essay (Exam 2)	30%
Quiz (Average)	20%
Four Assignments (Average)	20%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
A	Above 93	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
WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

MODULE	TOPIC
<p>Week 1 Monday, May 16</p>	<p>Before you start the course: Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course deadlines and assignment details. Use the course calendar below to navigate through the course's contents.</p> <p>Topic: Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions</p> <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Dr. Northup: <i>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism</i> ○ Dr. Huchingson: <i>The Hardware of Mysticism</i> (all presentations are found under PowerPoints in Course Content) <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 1 ○ Nancy Murphy, "Whatever happened to the Soul?" under Course Content ○ James Ashbrook and Carol Rausch Albright, "The Humanizing Brain: An Introduction," <i>Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science</i>: vol. 34, no. 1, March, 1999, pages 7-43. Full-text available online from the Florida International University Library (go to Catalogue on Library Homepage, select Journal Title, enter <i>Zygon</i>, and then select March 1999 from the list of <i>Zygon</i> issues). <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A1 - Hardware of Mysticism –Due May 22, 11:45pm</p> <p>Take: Quiz 1: Available Monday, May 16 – Sunday, May 29</p>

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p>Topic: Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions</p> <p>View: Dr. Rey: <i>Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean</i></p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Leslie Desmangles, <i>The Faces of the Gods</i>, pp. 99-115 Full text available through Netlibrary, (Off campus, you must first login to the librarywebpage using the number on the back of your Panther Card) ○ Dominique Zahan, "Reflections on African Spirituality" (in Course Content) ○ Mary Ann Clark, <i>Santería: Correcting the Myths and Uncovering the Realities of a Growing Religion</i>, chapter 7. Full text available through Netlibrary. <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism - Due May 22, 11:45pm</p> <p>Take: Quiz 2: Available Monday, May 16 – Sunday, May 29</p>
<p>Week 2 Monday, May 23</p>	<p>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism among Native Americans</p> <p>View: Dr. Huchingson: <i>Meditation and Mysticism Among Native Americans</i>, I & II.</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 8 ○ William A. Young, <i>Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions</i>, chapters 1, 4, 5. Full text available through Netlibrary.

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A3 - Native American – Due May 29 11:45pm</p> <p>Take: Quiz 3: Available Monday, May 23 – Sunday, May 29</p>
	<p>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Indian Religions</p> <p>View: Dr. Katz: <i>Meditation and Mysticism in Theistic Hinduism</i>, I-III</p> <p>Read: <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>Take: Quiz 4: Available Monday, May 23 – Sunday, May 29</p>
<p>Week 3 Monday, May 30</p>	<p>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Daoism and Chinese Religions</p> <p>View: Dr. Heine: <i>Meditation and Mysticism in Chinese Religions</i></p> <p>Read: <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 4</p> <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A4 – Daoism- Due June 5 11:45pm (You must do four – how many have you done so far?)</p> <p>Take: Quiz 5: Available Monday, May 30 – Sunday, June 5</p>

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism / Zen Buddhism</p> <p>View: Dr. Heine: <i>Intro to Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism, Meditation and Mysticism in Zen</i></p> <p>Read: <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A5 - Zen Mysticism Readings and Questions - Due June 5, 11:45pm How many of the required four have you done?</p> <p>Take: Quiz 6: Available Monday, May 30 – Sunday, June 5</p>
<p>Week 4 Monday, June 6</p>	<p>Midterm (Exam 1) Midterm Available Monday, June 6 - Sunday, June 12 11:45pm Take both parts: Objective and Essay</p>

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p style="text-align: center;">Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Mysticism in Judaism ○ Sephardic Judaism ○ Hasidic Judaism <p style="text-align: center;">View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Dr. Zohar: <i>Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism</i> ○ Dr. Stier: <i>Hasidic Judaism</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Read: <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>15 short "Additional Essays on Hasidism" by ImmyHumes, which can be found here.</p> <p>These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see here).</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Due via Assignment Dropbox: A6 – Hasidic – Due June 12– 11:45pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Quiz 7: Available Monday, June 6 - Sunday, June 12 ○ Quiz 8: Available Monday, June 6 - Sunday, June 12
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 5 Monday, June 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">View:</p>

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p>Dr. Larson: <i>Mysticism in Early Christianity</i>, I & II</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 6 ○ Gregory of Nyssa, <i>Homily 6, On the Beatitudes</i> (pp. 90-91). Full text available through Netlibrary. <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox: A7 - Early Christianity - Due June 19 – 11:45pm</p> <p>Take: Quiz 9: Available Monday, June 13 - Sunday, June 19</p>
	<p>Topic: Mysticism in Catholicism & Protestantism</p> <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Dr. Gudorf:., <i>Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism</i> ○ Prof. Alvarez: <i>Mysticism in Protestantism</i> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Julian of Norwich, <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> (pp. 25-42). Full text available through Netlibrary. ○ Jonathan Edwards, <i>A Divine and Supernatural Light</i>, pp. 439-451. Full text available through Google Books- also available under course content <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox A8 - Christian Mystic - Due June 19 11:45pm</p> <p>Take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ○ Quiz 10: Available Monday, June 13 - Sunday, June 24 ○ Quiz 11: Available Monday, June 13 - Sunday, June 24

MODULE	TOPIC
	<p>Quiz 12 and Quiz 13 will also be available beginning June 13, for students who are ahead of the course calendar.</p>
<p>Week 6 Monday, June 20</p>	<p>*Note, this week is shorter than the rest of the weeks because Summer A semester ends on Friday, June 19th.</p> <p>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Islam & Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions</p> <p>View: Dr. Musa: <i>Meditation and Mysticism in Islam</i> Dr. Bauman: <i>Nature Mysticism</i></p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 7 ○ "Mystical Islam and Sufi Brotherhoods" in <i>Islam: An Introduction</i> 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 <i>at-Tarhib waat-Tarhib</i>, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani , (available here) Mary Tucker, <i>Worldly Wonder</i>, pp. 1-54 <p>Due via Assignment Dropbox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A9 - Protestant Mysticism - Due June 24 11:45pm ○ A10 - Islamic Assignment –Due June 24 11:45pm <p>Take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 12: Available Monday, June 13 - Friday, June 24 ○ Quiz 13: Available Monday, June 13 - Friday, June 24

MODULE	TOPIC
Final Exam June 20 -24	Final (Exam 2) Final -Exam 2: Objective- Available Monday, June 20 – Friday, June 24 11:45pm Final -Exam 2: Essay: Available Monday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 22, 11:45pm Note: the written exam is due on Wednesday!