FIU|

Syllabus

Introduction to Religion and Culture

REL. 3100

SUMMER 2016

General Information | Important Information | Course Detail | Course Calendar

General Information

Professor Information

Instructor:
Albert Wuaku
Office Hours:
By appointment
Phone:
(305) 348-0112
Email:
wuakua@fiu.edu
E-mail Response Time:
48 hour response time (Excluding weekends)

Course Description And Purpose

This course explores religion from a sociological and anthropological perspective. Students will examine the ways in which sociologists and anthropologists try to explain the phenomenon of religion [that is, religious beliefs, religious behavior, and religious institutions]. The course exposes students to a range of sociological and anthropological

theories that explore the origins of religion as a social and cultural phenomenon and the interplay between religious belief, ritual, and religious institutions and their social and cultural contexts. Note that this is not a course in theology! We will not focus much attention on the content of beliefs and practices of specific religious traditions. Our interest is in the social and cultural dimensions of the phenomenon of religion.

Course Objectives

Four objectives underlie the course:

- o To introduce students to socio-cultural concepts relevant to the understanding of religion as a dimension of societal life.
- o To examine the dynamics of the relationship between religion and other aspects of society such as politics and the economy.
- o To develop critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating theoretical perspectives on religious belief and action.
- o To encourage students to apply socio-anthropological concepts in the understanding of their personal religious lives and past and contemporary religious issues in their societies.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester students will
• Gain an intellectual understanding of the interconnection between religion and society in western and non western cultures
• Improve on their writing skills through the writing of essays
• Develop the culture of participating in intellectual conversations through the interchanges discussion questions require of them.
• Be excited about the dynamics of religion in societal life enough to want to pursue studies in this area further

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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.

Please visit our [technical requirements page](#) for additional information.

Accessibility And Accommodation

Obtain more detailed information about the [specific limitations with the technologies](#) used in this course.

Review [Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment](#) for more information.

For additional assistance please contact our [Disability Resource Center](#).
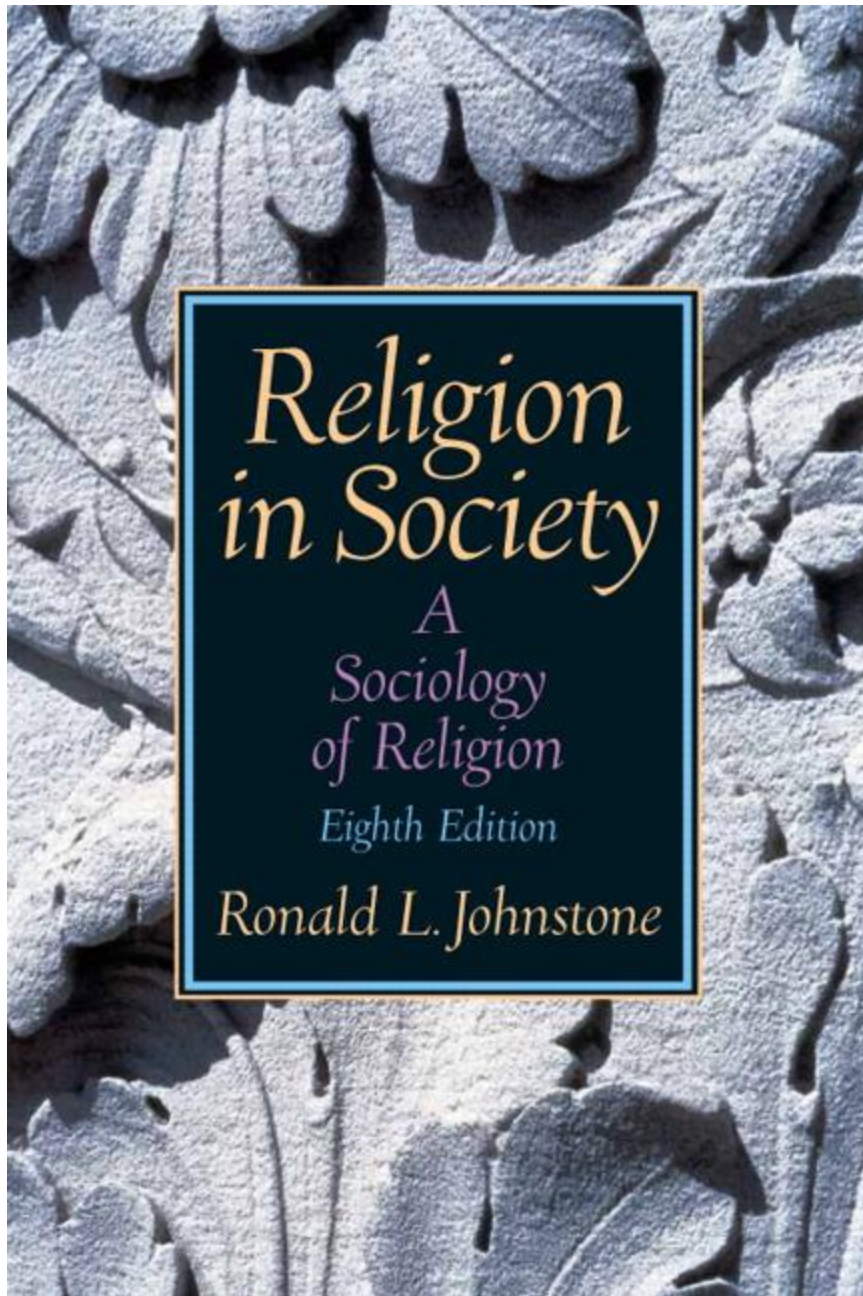
Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Proctored Exam Policy

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Textbook

Religion in Society: A Sociology of Religion (8th Ed)
Ronald L. Johnstone
Prentice Hall (2007)
0131884077
9780131884076
You may purchase 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:

- o **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- o **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- o **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- o **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
- o **Review** and follow the course calendar

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

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Course Detail

Course Communication

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

The email feature is **external** communication that allows users to send emails to users enrolled in the course including the instructor and other students. Emails are sent to the student's FIU email on record.

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

All students are expected to use their FIU e-mail address/account for course correspondence. Like Blackboard, you are expected to check your FIU e-mail at least every other day for the duration of this course.

All e-mails sent to the instructor should reflect a professional manner and adhere to the following format:

> Subject Line/Heading: Place your question/comment in the subject heading. Also identify this class (Web Class 3100),
> Text: The text of the message should begin with Dear Dr. Wuaku. The message should follow and end with the students full name.

Example E-mail: Below is an example of the format I expect from e-mail inquiries. Please remember you can also call me on 305-348-0112 if you need to speak with me.

> From: Joe Doe doee@fiu .edu (Use FIU email address/account)
> To: Albert Wuaku wuakua@fiu .edu
> Subject: Textbook (Web Class 3100)
>
> Dear Dr. Wuaku,
>
> I have a question about the textbook. Do we have to buy it from the bookstore or can we order it online? I look forward to your response.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Joe Doe.

Please remember you can also call me on 305-348-0112 if you need to speak with me.

Discussion Forums

Throughout the semester the instructor will post messages to the discussion board that require a response or activity from each student. Each post will be graded. Each discussion is worth 25 points. To receive all possible points, a posting must be on time, be easy to read, free of careless mistakes, and appropriately address the issue(s) or question(s) presented by the instructor. Also each student must address or respond to viewpoints of at least three others in the class.

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

Assignments

The essay questions will be based on the lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings. The purpose of these essays is to test the student's knowledge of the vocabulary, issues, theoretical perspectives and the ability to apply the ideas covered to the understanding of lived religious experience.

How to respond to essay questions:

All essay questions must be thoroughly answered. A thorough response is one that shows evidence of familiarity with the text and the power-point notes and shows the student's own originality. The points in the essay must be discussed thoroughly and illustrated with practical examples from the readings or the author's own experiences. The essay must be written in grammatically correct prose. It must be very well structured and organized. YOU WILL SCORE A ZERO IF YOU SUBMIT WORK THAT IS POORLY WRITTEN.

Read the questions ahead of time. Read the text and power point notes and draft your responses. Read the question again to make sure you are on the right course. Proof read your work before you submit it.

Quizzes

There will be a multiple choice quiz or essay assignment after each topic or combination of topics. Each assignment will be worth a total of 25 points. Each essay assignment will consist of 1, 2, 3 or 4 essay questions out of which a student will be required to answer a specified number of questions. If the chosen question has sub-divisions [e.g questions 1 a, 1 b, etc] the student must address all questions in the subdivisions to be awarded full points for the question. A student has only 3 attempts at answering the multiple choice questions. The highest score will be recorded.

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.

Final Grade

The Final Grade will be determined by a tally of points scored throughout the semester. These points will be converted into percentages **[that is, Points scored by student/total number of points [200] x 100]**. Please keep printed copies of all assignments and graded material. If you cannot produce your class material in a grade dispute, the grade recorded in the instructor's grade book will take precedent.

Students are required and responsible for all assigned text readings and material from Blackboard. Students are expected to check the Announcement and Assignment sections of Blackboard for this class at least every other day. Students who take this course are

expected to have the skills necessary to complete all assignments. **Essay Assignments must not be sent as attachments to the professor. They must be posted in the Assignment drop box. I will not grade them if you send them to me as attachments.** If you have computer technology questions during the semester, you should contact the FIU Computer Help Desk.

Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if and whenever necessary.

Grading

Course Requirements	Weight
Essays and Multiple Choice Quizzes	70%
Discussion Assignments	30%
Total	**100%**

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
A	Above 93	B-	81 - 83	D+	67 - 70
A-	91 - 92	C+	77 - 80	D	64 - 66
B+	87 - 90	C	74 - 76	D-	61 - 63
B	84 - 86	C-	71 - 73	F	< 61

Course Calendar

Weekly Schedule

Date	Chapter and Tasks
	Chapter 1 & 2: Introduction to Sociology of Religion & The sources of Religion
Week 1 *May 16th - May 22rd*	Read Chapter 1 and 2. Read the corresponding Lecture summaries/supplements (located in the Course Content section of Blackboard). o **Quiz 1 due May 22nd at 11:55p.m.**
Week 2 *May 23rd - May 29th*	Chapter 3 - Religion As A Group Phenomenon Chapter 5 - Becoming Religious o **Quiz 2 due May 29th 11:55 p.m.** o **Discussion 1 posts due May 29th 11:55 p.m.**

Date	Chapter and Tasks
	Chapter 4 - The Church/Sect Continuum
Week 3 *May 30th —* *June 5th*	o **Discussion 1 due June 5th at 11:55p.m. (Please remember to post discussion views earlier so others can respond)** o **Essay 1 due June 5th at 11:55p.m.**
Week 4 *June 6th -* *June 12th*	Chapter 6 - Religion and Conflict Chapter 9 - Religion and the Economy o **Essay 2 due June 12th at 11:55p.m.**
Week 5 *June 13th -* *June 19th*	Chapter 8 – Religious Fundamentalism Documentary – "Made in America – Christian Fundamentalism" o **Essay 3 due June 19th at 11:55p.m.**
Week 6 *June 20th -* *June 24th*	Chapter 11 – Religion And Women o **Quiz 3 due June 19th at 11:55p.m.** o **Discussion Board 2 due June 24th at 11:55p.m.**