REL 3308: Studies in World Religion

Instructor: Patrick J. Villalonga  
M.A., Adjunct Lecturer  
pvill015@fiu.edu

When? 9:30 AM - 11:45 AM  
Where? Academic Center One 265

Course Materials

Religions of the World (13th Edition) by Hopfe, Woodward, and Hendrickson  

What will we be doing together?

The world is steeped in religion and this course is designed to help you probe into its complex nature. We will explore the various histories, elements, and dimensions that make up today’s world religions. Essentially, we will try to engage in an earnest study of religion.

We will discuss world religions in their formative years as well as understanding their subsequent history and development. Case studies will also highlight how these religions are interacting with ecology, politics, and women today. Class assignments, group discussions, exams, as well as a research paper are all geared to make you think and analyze the ins and outs of world religions. In essence we will explore how religions were formed, sustained, and how they are continually evolving, especially in this increasingly globalized world and economy.

What you should walk away with by course’s end?

- You will grasp how some of today’s world religions were initially formed.  
- You will obtain a basic understanding of the history corresponding to today’s world religions.  
- You will learn basic terminology and practices related to today’s world religions.  
- You will analyze the development and evolution of today’s world religions.  
- You will understand how an individual’s identity and outlook are shaped by religious influences.  
- You will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.
- You will be able to apply critical thinking to important topics in the field of religious studies.
- You will be able to appreciate the need and willingness to think creatively about religious issues.
  in the contemporary world, especially as related to ecology, politics, and women.
- You will be able to evaluate your own and others’ religious views as they relate to understanding other cultures and solving common problems.

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay*</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay*</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper*</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit #1: Analysis Using a Framework</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit #2: Synthesizing Arguments</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit #3: Rice Experiment</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit #4: Midterm Conference</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit #5: Final Conference</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Extra Credit Points</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These essays must incorporate citations from two different sources.

- Assignments must be turned in by the due date. Any makeups must be accompanied by an official excusal.
- There are no curves.

Attendance

I will not take attendance for grading purposes throughout the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Monday, 8 May 2017

Hour 1: Introduction to REL 2011
Hour 2: Introduction to the Study of Religion

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

Hour 1: Introduction to the Study of Religion

Hour 2: Judaism

Friday, 12 May 2017

DUE: Extra Credit #1: Analysis Using a Framework in Class

Hour 1: Judaism

Hour 2: Judaism

Monday, 15 May 2017

Receive Midterm Essay Prompts

Hour 1: Chicago Style, Buddhism

Hour 2: Buddhism

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Receive Research Paper Assignment Sheet

Hour 1: Buddhism

Hour 2: Buddhist Meditation

Friday, 19 May 2017

Conferences

Monday, 22 May 2017

Due: Midterm Essay in Class
Hour 1, 2: Midterm Exam

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

*Receive Extra Credit #2 Assignment Sheet*

Hour 1: Hinduism

Hour 2: Hinduism

Friday, 26 May 2017

Hour 1: Hinduism

Hour 2: Hinduism

Monday, 29 May 2017

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, 31 May 2017

Hour 1: Christianity

Hour 2: Christianity

Friday, 2 June 2017

Hour 1: Christianity

Hour 2: Friedrich Nietzsche

Monday, 5 June 2017

*Due: Research Paper Proposal*

*Due: Extra Credit #2: Synthesizing Arguments in Class*

*Receive Extra Credit #5 Assignment Sheet*
Hour 1: Islam
Hour 2: Islam

Wednesday, 7 June 2017

Receive Final Essay Prompts

Hour 1: Islam
Hour 2: Islam

Friday, 9 June 2017

Hour 1: Indigenous Religions
Hour 2: Indigenous Religions

Monday, 12 June 2017

Hour 1: New Age Religions
Hour 2: Religion in the Modern World

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Conferences

Friday, 16 June 2017

Due: Research Paper in Class
Due: Final Essay in Class
Due: Extra Credit #5: Rice Experiment in Class

Hour 1: Final Exam
Hour 2: Rice Experiment Presentations