

FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 2011 B51 Introduction to Religion

FALL 2017 - Instructor Gregory Pope

Tu-Thrs 9:30- 10:45AM

Academic One - Room 261

Email: Popegb@fiu.edu

Texts:

Ishmael, Daniel Quinn, ISBN 0-553-37540-7

White Women's Christ, Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response, Jacquelyn Grant, ISBN 1-55540-303-4

Spirituality and World Religions, George E. Saint-Laurent, ISBN 0-7674-1655-4 (A supplemental text)

Videos: The Great Religions of the World

Thomas Aquinas said, "Beware of the person of one book."

Course Objectives:

**Students will be able to identify the relationship between religion and culture.

**Students will be able to identify the function of religion in different socio-political contexts.

**Students will be able to comprehend the dangers inherited in an "Universal" theology.

**Students will be able to construct a competent argument for choosing a global perspective of religion as the choice for fully understanding the sacred.

**Students will be able to understand their embedded religious views over against other world religions.

**Students will be able to identify the transformative nature of religions under the impact of a sacred world view.

Global Learning Objectives Targeted:

****Analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.**

****Assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions.**

****Demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.**

Course Regulations and Procedures:

1) If late arrivals become disruptive or frequent, the professor reserves the right to turn away those who arrive more than fifteen minutes late.

2) No extra work will be accepted to compensate for low grades in the course work, or for missed work.

3) Late papers will be debited one letter grade for each class day late.

4) The grading scale is:

A = 100-93

A- = 92 – 90

B+ = 89 – 87

B = 86 – 84

B- = 83 – 80

C+ = 79 – 77

C = 76 – 70

D=69-60

F = 59 - 0

5) Assignments graded:

25% Group Research Paper

25%..... Group Site Visit and Group Presentation

25%.....Essay

15%.....Final Exam

10% ...Class Participation and Attendance

Assignments: There will be a Group Research Paper, a Group Site Visit and a Group Presentation, an Essay, and a Final Exam... All papers should be double space with 12' font.

Group Research Paper: Students will be divided into groups, and each group will be assigned a particular religion. Then, each group will write a 7-9 page group research paper about that particular religion (including the historical, religious-political, and social contexts). The final draft (one from each group) will be submitted to Turnitin.com by the group leaders only; each group member will be given the same grade as their group leader. The students may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent.

Group Site Visit and Presentation: Each group will visit a religious site from an assigned religion and interview a religious leader from that that religious community, and then give an oral presentation on that religious community in the class. This presentation should highlight the historical, religious-political, and social contexts of that religious community.

Essay: Each student will choose any Topic that is associated with contemporary Women issues and write a 7-9 page critical paper highlighting how Patriarchal views of Religion may contribute to this treatment. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com by each individual student.

Final Exam will be on the material covered in class: lectures and readings. The exam will consist of definition of terms, fill in the blanks and essays.

Academic Information and Class Policy:

Plagiarism is literary theft and is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgements, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of

discourse from another writer or speaker. This includes material found on the Internet. Plagiarism includes the unauthorized copying of software and the violation of copyright laws. Plagiarism will result in an F on the paper and likely in the class as well. It is also grounds for expulsion from the university.

Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Cheating includes falsifying reports and documents. Cheating on exams will result in zero awarded to both papers (so keep your paper covered).

Attendance: Class attendance and class participation are ways to receive extra credit. Also, some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are not in the textbooks. In addition, your grade will be lowered a letter if you have more than three unexcused absences.

Incomplete Grades: An Incomplete grade is to be given only to the student who has been regularly attending class and has completed most of the class work, but has a serious emergency at the end of the term.

Internet: You are encouraged to use the Internet- although, you must be careful and thoughtful when interpreting the data found on the web sites. Remember, the sites with the word “gov/ edu/ org” or usually good sites. This information will be covered further during visit to the library.

FIU RELIGIOUS STUDIES DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS

AUGUST	22	Introduction
	24	Ishmael, Section 1& 2 (Lecture)
	29	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	31	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
SEPTEMBER	05	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	07	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
	12	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
	14	Library (Instructional Session)
	19	Library (Discovery Session)
	21	Academic Writing Center (Lecture)
	26	Video (Research Paper Due)
	28	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion
OCTOBER	03	Video
	05	Jewish Spirituality (Group 1 Oral Presentation)
	10	Video
	12	Islamic Spirituality (Group 2 Oral Presentation)

- 17 Video
- 19 Hindu, Spirituality (**Group 3 Oral Presentation**)
- 24 Video
- 26 Buddhist Spirituality (**Group 4 Oral Presentation**)
- 31 Video

- NOVEMBER**
- 02 Grant, White Women's Christ
 - 07 Grant, White Women's Christ
 - 09 Grant, White Women's Christ
 - 14 Grant, White Women's Christ (**Essay Due**)
 - 16 Grant, White Women Christ
 - 21 Grant, Black Women's Jesus
 - 28 Grant, Black Women's Jesus
 - 30 Review for Final Exam

*****Final Exam Will Be Announced**