REL 3308
STUDIES IN WORLD RELIGIONS

Department of Religious Studies, FIU
Professor: Dr. Carlos Grenier (cagrenie@fiu.edu)
Office and Office Hours: DM 301C, Tuesdays/Thursdays 1-3 PM.

Overview: This class will explore many religious traditions practiced throughout the world. By paying constant attention to their similarities and differences, it is hoped that this course will acquire a large-scale picture of global religious diversity. We will examine the practices of major and minor world religions – from Native American traditions, through Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and East Asian religions, and finally the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will discuss the historical contexts of their emergence and spread, the points of contact and dialogue with each other, the nuances of their belief systems and institutions, and their individual contributions to world civilization. This course will also place a great emphasis on discussion of primary texts.

Aims:
   a) To provide the student with a large amount of details and information on the beliefs, rituals, symbols, and scriptures of major world religions.
   b) To facilitate cross-cultural comparisons of religious faith and practice.
   c) To broaden the intellectual and spiritual horizons of the student by exposure to the beauty, vitality, truth, and power of religious approaches to reality, especially within non-Western frameworks.
   d) To challenge the student to enter sympathetically into the worldviews of the religious traditions selected for study.
   e) To prepare the student for informed, ethical participation in our religiously plural world.

Evaluation:

1. Objective Mid-Term Exam, on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism: 50 questions, 2-hour time limit (15% of final grade).

2. Midterm Essay Exam, One essay, two (2) pages long, on questions provided by instructor (15% of final grade).

3. Objective Final Exam, on Judaism, Christianity and Islam: 50 questions (15% of final grade).

4. Final Essay Exam: One essay, two (2) pages long, on questions provided by instructor: (15% of final grade).

5. Quiz #1, on Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism: 20 questions (10% of final grade).

6. Quiz #2, on Chinese Religions (Taoism and Confucianism) and Shintoism: 20 questions (10% of final grade).
7. Site Visit (4-5 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) (10% of final grade). Site Visit Format and Short Directory of Religious Sites of South Florida are found at the end of the syllabus. Site visit reports will be assigned individually.

8. Participation (10% of final grade)

EXTRA CREDIT: Attendance at lectures offered by the Religious Studies Department, Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Muslim World Studies Center, Middle East Studies Center, Judaic Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, and Center for Spirituality will each count for one (1) point towards the final grade.

THE OBJECTIVE EXAMS AND QUIZZES will be true/false, multiple choice, and the questions will be drawn from the required reading, lectures, and videos. Given this fact, it is important that the student make an effort to attend every class. All exams and quizzes are online. As explained above, students will have two (2) attempts for each of the objective assessments (quizzes and exams). The midterm exam will consist of fifty (50) questions; the final exam will consist of one hundred (100) questions. The quizzes will be twenty (20) questions each. The final exam of one hundred (100) questions will not be comprehensive; it will cover only the material after the midterm exam (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam).

Textbook and Required Readings:

The course will be based upon:


Additional readings will be posted on the Canvas page.

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Week 1

August 21: Overview and Introduction to Religion

August 23: “Indigenous” Traditions Overview
    Hopfe Chapters 1, 2,

Week 2

August 28: Indigenous Traditions II
    Hopfe Chapter 3
August 30: Indigenous Traditions III
   Film: Sorcerers of Zaire

Week 3:

   September 4: Hinduism I
      Hopfe, Chapter 4

   September 6: Hinduism II
      Hopfe, Chapter 4

Week 4:

   September 11: Hinduism III:
      Film: 330 Million Gods

   September 13: Jainism
      Hopfe, Chapter 5

Week 5:

   September 18: Sikhism
      Hopfe Chapter 7

   September 20: Buddhism I
      Hopfe Chapter 6
      Quiz #1, on Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism posted

Week 6

   September 25: Buddhism II
      Hopfe Chapter 6

   September 27: Buddhism III
      Film TBA

Week 7:

   October 2: Essay Midterm Exam (on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism) posted

   Shintoism, Taoism
      Hopfe Chapter 9,
      Chapter 8, 165-177

   October 4: Confucianism
Week 8

**October 9: Religions of the Middle East**

**October 11: Early Judaism**
Hopfe, Chapter 11
*Genesis 1, 12-25* (use the online Bible edition of your choice)

Week 9

**October 16: Judaism II: Kingship and Priesthood**
Hopfe, Ch. 11
Read *Exodus* 19-20, *Deuteronomy* 5-6

**October 18: Judaism III: Rabbinic Judaism**

Week 10

**October 23: Quiz #2: Chinese Religions and Shintoism**
*The Historical Jesus and Early Christianity*
Hopfe Chapter 12, 270-289

**October 25: Christianity II: The Church and Medieval Christianity**
Hopfe 290-292
Augustine’s *Confessions* (excerpts)
https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aug-conv.asp

Week 11

**October 30: The Protestant Reformation**
Hopfe 293-298

**November 1: Modern Christianity**
Hopfe 298-306

Week 12:

**November 6: The Prophet and the Origins of Islam**
Qur’an: Suras *Nuh* (71); *al-‘Alaq* (96); *al-Ikhlas* (112); *al-Falaq* (113), *Yusuf* (12).
Compare Sura 12 with Genesis 37, 39, 42-45
Hopfe Chapter 13

**November 8: Islam: History, Sects and Institutions**
Week 13:

**November 13: Islamic Law, Ritual, and Practice**
Hopfe Chapter 13

**November 15: Islamic Mysticism**
Al-Ghazali, *The Deliverance from Error*, trans. W. M. Watt, pp. 54-68. (PDF)
Other excerpts (PDF to be provided)

Week 14:

**November 20: Islam in the Twentieth Century**
Hopfe Chapter 13

**November 22: THANKSGIVING**

Week 15:

**November 27: Essay Final Exam due (On Judaism, Christianity, and Islam)**
Films on Islam

**November 29: Final Review**

Week 16: Final Objective Exam will be Posted
RELIGIOUS SITES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The Site Visit and Report must deal with a religious tradition that is **not the student’s own.** If a phone number is no longer valid, call information and please let the instructor know that the number(s) has been changed so that the directory can be updated. If you learn about other sites not included below, please let the instructor know also.

**ISLAMIC:** the times to go are Fridays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Female students can bring a scarf with them if they don’t want to stand out, but it is not required.

Miami Gardens Mosque (Sunni)
4305 N.W. 183 street
Miami, Florida 33055

Mosque of Miami (Sunni)
7350 N.W. 3rd Street
Miami, Florida 33126
305-261-7622

Masjid Al-Ansar (Sunni)
5245 N.W. 7th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33127
305-757-8741

Islamic School of Miami
Masjid al-Noor (Sunni)
11699 SW 147 Ave
Miami, FL 33196
(305) 408-0400

Tasnim Uddin, Principal of School
Friday: 1:30 pm, Islam School on Sundays: 10am-12pm
(behind the Exxon gas station)

Islamic Jafferia Association Imambara (Shia)
10554 N.W. 132nd Street
Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016
(305) 557-6835
http://www.ijamiami.org/

Muhammad's Mosque # 29 (Nation of Islam)
5660 N.W. 7th Ave.
Miami, Florida
305-756-9136
BAHAI

FIU Bahai Club
305-436-2490

Bahai Faith (South)
9300 S. Dixie Hwy.
Miami, Florida
305-570-8886

Bahai Faith (North)
4365 Rock Island Rd.
Ft. Lauderdale
(North of Commercial)
954-524-4084

BUDDHIST

(Nichiren Buddhist)
Sokka Gakkai International
Miami Community Center
20000 S.W. 36th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33332
954-349-5200

Avalokitesvara Buddhist Study Center (Buddhist)
7550 S.W. 82nd Court
Miami, Florida 33143
305-271-6361
267-8000

International Zen Institute of Florida (Buddhist)
Dharma House
3860 Crawford Avenue
Miami, Florida 33133
305-448-8969

Wat Buddharangsri Temple (Thai, Buddhist)
15200 S.W., 240th Street
Homestead, Florida
305-245-2702

Amida Temple ("Pure Land" Buddhist)
c/o Kuang-Hsi Wu
12815 S.W. 119 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33186
305-385-2866

International Dharma Center (Buddhist)
P.O. Box 141728
Coral Gables, Florida
33114-1728
305-267-8000 (Ileana Davis)

Kagyu Shedrup Chöling (Tibetan Buddhist)
1905 Monroe Street
Hollywood, Florida 33020 954-920-1346

**HINDU: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.**

Shiva Vishnu Temple 5661 Dykes Rd.
(S.W. 160th Ave)
Pembroke Pines (Davie)
954-689-0471
webmaster@shivavishnu.org
(I-75 north, exit at Sheridan, go west to Dykes Road, then go north for about a mile, temple on the left)

The South Florida Hindu Temple
13010 Griffin Road
Davie, Florida
954-438-3675
info@sft.org

Hare Krishna Temple
3220 Virginia St.
Coconut Grove, Florida
305-442-7218

**SIKH: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.**

Sikh Society of Florida
16000 Sterling Rd.
Pembroke Pines, Florida
954-680-0221
(Same directions as to Shiva Hindu Temple, but closer to Sheridan on Dykes Road)

**JAIN**

Jain Center of South Florida
1960 N. Commerce Parkway #11
Weston, FL 33326
JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN
Synagogues: Friday evenings, near Sundown; and Saturday mornings, 8:00 a.m. only. Christian churches: 11:00 a.m. morning service. Consult Yellow Pages for synagogue or church nearest where you live.

Students are encouraged to do detective work and find representatives of the other major world religions in Miami or the South Florida area: Taoism, Confucianism (Chinese), Shinto (Japanese), and Zoroastrianism.