

FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

F-2021 Introduction to Religion

FALL 2021 – Professor Gregory Pope

Tu-Th 11:30 AM-12:15 P.M. Academic Center One Rm. 135

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Required Texts:

Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion by James C. Livingston

ISBN 978-0-13-600380-9 ISBN 0-13-600380-x

***Other Material will be provided by the Instructor.**

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.**

“This is a Global Learning Foundations course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement”

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.**

GLOBAL LEARNING GRADUATION HONORS:

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long- term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least four global learning courses, extensive language study, and a global problem- solving project. Registration and program acceptance required. For more information, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>

Gordon Rule Requirement:

As this is a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write a minimum of two major assignments. Each paper will be at least 1500-2000 words and will be submitted through Turnitin. All source material must be cited correctly using MLA Style and long quotes should be avoided. Please be aware that papers with an originality score of over 35% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points).

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:

- 20% Research Paper**
- 20% Presentation**
- 10%.... Weekly Presentations**
- 20%.....Essay**
- 20%.....Final Exam**
- 10%..... Mid-Term Exam**

Assignments: There will be a Research Paper, Presentation, Weekly Presentations, Essay, and Final Exam...

Research Paper: Students will choose a religion (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism), and write a 10 page Research Paper on its Origin and Modern Cultural adaptations. All papers must be

typed in dark and legible print, double spaced, with 12' font, including a cover page and work-cited page. The final draft must be submitted to Turnitin. The final grade will be determined by Style (25%), Spelling (25%), Grammar (25%), and Content (25%) for a total grade of 100 points.

Presentation: Students will give a presentation on the Meaning of the World, the Intent of the Sacred, and the Destiny of Man as it pertains to their chosen religion. A copy of the presentation must be sent to the Professor before the date of the presentation. The grade will be determined by Communication (50%) and Content (50%) for a total grade of 100 points.

Weekly Presentations: Students will be assigned sections from the Textbook to read for the purpose of conversing about that section during the following class. The grades will be determined by the qualitative engagements of the student.

Essay: Students will choose a contemporary social problem (evil) and write an 8-page Essay about its origin, the religious implications, and how your assigned Group religion can help to solve the problem. All papers must be in dark and legible print, double spaced, with 12' font, and submitted to Turnitin. The grade will be determined by the Format (25%), Spelling (25%), Grammar (25%), and Content (25%) for a total grade of 100 points.

Final Exam will be on material covered from the Textbook and Class Lectures. The exam will consist of Essays. This is an open book test. The Exam will be email to the students on the date and time given by the University. The students must then submit the exam before or at the time given.

There will be a Mid-Term exam of 10 questions. This exam will test the students' basic knowledge about religion.

Attendance: Class attendance is the way to succeed in this course- as some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are not in the textbook. Also, monitoring attendance is a mandate by FIU during the first few weeks of class

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. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> for more information.

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).

Incomplete Grades: An Incomplete grade is 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" are

usually good sites. This information will be covered further during visit to the library.

DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS

AUGUST 24 Introduction (Discovering Embedded Theology)

26 Meaning of Religion and Spirituality

Ways Religions conceive the Sacred:

31 The Sacred and the Holy

SEPTEMBER 02 Symbols, Myths, and Doctrines

07 Sacred Ritual

09 Sacred Scripture

14 Class Discussion (Research Paper) *

16 Class Lecture (Writing Center)

21 Session in the Library

The Origin and Order of the natural and social world:

23 Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate
Reality * (Research Paper Due)

28 The Cosmogony

30 The Cosmogony

OCTOBER 05 Presentations *

07 Presentations *

The Account of Human Problems:

12 Views of the Human Problem

14 Encountering Evil

19 The Effects of Theodicy

21 Foundation of Moral Action

26 MID TERM EXAM

28 Class Discussion (Essay)

Ways and Goals of Salvation and Liberation:

- NOVEMBER**
- 02 The Way of Grace through Faith, Devotion, Action and Obligation**
 - 04 Meditation and Philosophical Insight**
 - 09 The Goal of Salvation and Liberation**
 - 16 Resurrection, Immortality, and Eternal Life (Essay Due)**

The Status and the Role of Women:

- 18 The Status and Roles of Women**
- 23 Relationship between Religion and State**
- 30 The Culture Wars**

- DECEMBER**
- 02 Class Conference**
 - 09 Final Exam (9:45- 11:45)**

***November 11 Veterans Day (University Closed)**

***November 25 Thanksgiving Day (University Closed)**