

REL3308 U08 16927

Religion 3308 Sec U07 2118

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Why Should I Care about Religion?

Maybe Jesus was a Buddhist monk. Where exactly did your yoga class come from? Why are Native Americans some of the best eco-advocates today? Is Judaism a religion, a culture, or a tribe? Is God dead? God may be alive, but is he a woman? It might be good to wonder if religion is a force for good or evil to begin with? Can we still be spiritual without being religious?

These are not just entertaining questions, but are highly relevant to your personal and professional development in our globalized world. In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore these questions and many more that emerge as we investigate humanity, religion, and the cosmos.

How can this course help you advance in your career?

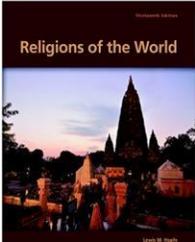
You do not need to be personally religious, majoring in religious studies, or in a field within humanities to benefit from this course. Whatever your academic field is, this course will train you to make important connections between your career and the world of the sacred and the profane. You will be able to explore the variety of religious expressions and frameworks that shape societies around the world, and the role religion plays in local and international affairs.

Religious literacy will greatly impact our ability to understand personal and social motivations behind financial decisions, political engagement, science and technological advancement, environmental and migration policies, family planning, diet and food production, gender relations, war and terrorist attacks, and more. Whether you notice or not, religion is a universal phenomenon that continues to transform and be transformed by our societies.

Our approach is interdisciplinary, which means you will be critically reflecting from many fields of study such as philosophy, psychology, cultural studies, history, economics, gender studies, among others. This enhances your ability to think critically,

communicate effectively, respond sensitively, collaborate with others and creatively resolve conflict.

Required Text

	<p>Religions of the World 13th Edition ISBN: 10: 0133793826 ISBN-13:9780133793826 Authors: Lewis M Hopfe, Mark R Woodward, Brett Hendrickson</p> <p>Citation: Hopfe, Lewis M., Mark R. Woodward, and Brett Henrickson. 2014. <i>Religions of the world</i>.</p>
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Course breakdown

Course	Items	Scale	Percentage of final Grade
Quizzes	6-8	100	15%
Midterm	1	100	25%
Discussions	6-8	100	15%
Site Visit Essay	1	100	20%
Final Exam	1	100	25%
Total			100%

Goals

- Analyze and interpret the universal dimensions of the sacred.
- Discover the relevance and practice of religion in everyday life.
- Recognize the academic impact of religion as an interdisciplinary field.
- Identify the role of religion as a transformational force for the self and society.

- Develop a critical and open-minded approach to religion that questions assumptions.
- Explore religion as a platform that increases civic engagement and global awareness.

Objectives

1. Understanding the complexity of the definitions of religion and secularization.
2. Recognize the strength of utilizing different approaches, theories, and methodologies to better understand the universal forms of religious experience and expression such as sacred symbols, rituals, myths, scriptures, ethics, and communities.
3. Identify religious themes and patterns that shape our everyday life.
4. Analyze a wide range of religious beliefs and practices as an avenue for better understanding religion in our individual, cultural, economic, and political contexts.
5. Critically engage the issue of religious diversity and dialogue in national and international context.
6. Reflect upon and enhance student's potential for moral agency and compassion.

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).

Global Learning Objectives

As a Global Learning course, students will be meet the following objectives through text readings, assignments, and class discussions:

1. Students will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.
2. Students will be able to assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions
3. Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
4. Another big thing is **interfaith dialogue**.

Plagiarism

Do you know what plagiarism is? Avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism by asking me, a representative from the writing center or our library to explain. Many students end up plagiarizing material because they do not know what it entails. In short, plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1. A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
2. Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
3. Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F (0 points) for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly for the course. Please be aware: Previously submitted papers are not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are retaking this class. You may not "reuse" papers.

Evaluation Criteria

Canvas: All students are required to regularly utilize Canvas for this course. Here, students will be able to access course information and materials, upload assignments, view course announcements, send and receive messages, and monitor progress. If you should encounter any technical issues with Canvas, please contact them directly at: <https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/>

Attendance: *Show up to Zoom!!!* Each and every one of you is an essential part of the overall learning experience of this course. Timely attendance in weekly Zoom sessions is mandatory and graded on a point scale, thus absences will greatly affect your overall grade. If you need to be absent, kindly notify me in advance.

Sacred Readings/Discussions and Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken every class; also. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the class notes from somebody. Participation in class discussion is fundamental, also, there will be some smaller assignments given where you will read and excerpt of a religion that is being discussed (FUN STUFF). Afterwards, you will engage in an online discussion using Canvas!

Reading Policy

It is expected of each student to read the assigned chapters prior to class discussion.

Quizzes

There will be a total of 4-6 Quizzes which roughly will be every other week. The majority of the quizzes will include the key terms of the chapters as well as religious concepts. This is to ensure that the student is reading the text and following the lectures as well. The Quizzes will be taken online and they are timed.

Site Visit and Essay

****Students May Not Submit Work from A Previous Semester Or From Another Class For This Assignment Or Any Other Assignment In This Course. It Will Be Flagged For Plagiarism. Please submit it to me by Canvas.**

- Format: MLA Format Required o Content: Field research and supplementary research
- Length: 1800-2000 Words (5 pgs.), Not Including Your Works Cited Page o Double – Spaced, 12-Pt Font, Arial Or Times New Roman Font
- Sources: 3 Academic Sources Minimum
- Works Cited Page required

At the top of your paper, please include the name of the place you visited, the date you visited, and the names of any people you may have interviewed. Also include the particular sect of the religion. [If you visited a Muslim mosque, was it Sunni or Shi'ite? If you visited a Jewish synagogue, was it Orthodox, Conservative, or Reform? If you visited a Buddhist temple, was it Theravadin or a Mahayana sect?] You may want to ask this when you call to find out if you visit is acceptable. Full details below:

For the Site Visit, the student must perform field research by attending a religious service outside of their own religious tradition. For this assignment, I'd like you to immerse yourself in something unfamiliar (example: Christians should perform field research on a non-Christian religion, like Buddhism, Hinduism etc.)

Your research should ideally progress in three stages:

1. **Preliminary Research.** Before going to the service, it is a good idea to do some preliminary research on the religious tradition. For example, if you're attending a Hindu ceremony, you will want to read the textbook chapter and watch the PowerPoint presentation on Hinduism. Additionally, I strongly recommend that you call the site you'll be visiting and let them know you're coming to do research for a class project. Ask them if there's any dress code requirements, or anything else you should keep in mind. You may also want to ask if they will allow you to take notes during the service. (Some Jewish denominations, for example, do not allow writing on Shabbat {Saturday}.)
2. **Field Research.** Attend the service and observe closely. You may want to take notes. Some students have found it helpful to attend services in groups, and you're welcome to do this.

3. **Supplementary research.** After your visit, you'll need to do research on things that may have been unfamiliar to you. If you go to a Jewish service and you see the men wearing kippahs (or yarmulkes), you don't want to write in your essay, "There were these men and they were wearing these funny hats but I don't know why." This is where your additional research comes in. Find out what the hats are called, and find out why they're worn. If you go to a Muslim mosque and you see the worshippers washing their hands and feet, you don't want to write in your essay, "Everyone was washing their hands and feet but I don't know why they did that and it was pretty weird." Research the practice and find out why it's done.

Finally, after completing these three stages, write a detailed and insightful essay. You should demonstrate a general understanding of the religious tradition, but make most of your essay about your visit. Use your research to explain your experience. **What did you see around you? What did the place of worship look like? Did you see any religious art or religious symbols there? How were people dressed? What rituals were performed? Finally, include your personal reaction to the service. How did you respond? Did you enjoy the visit or did you feel uncomfortable? Was your opinion on the religion changed at all?**

Midterm and Final

The Midterm and Final is a multiple choice test.

Course Calendar

- Week 1:
 - What is Religion and what is Sacredness
 - Quiz 1
- Week 2
 - Hinduism pt 1
 - Hinduism Sacred Text Discussion
- Week 3
 - Hinduism pt 2
 - Quiz 2
- Week 4
 - Buddhism pt 1
 - Sacred text discussion
- Week 5
 - Buddhism pt 2
 - Quiz 3

- Week 6
 - Chinese Religions pt 1
 - Sacred Text discussion
- Week 7
 - Chinese Religion pt 2
 - Midterm due at the end of the week
- Week 8
 - Site Visit due and site visit presentation
- Week 9
- Week 10
 - Judaism pt 1
 - Sacred Text Discussion
- Week 11
 - Judaism pt 2
 - Quiz
- Week 12
 - Christianity pt. 1
 - Sacred Text Discussion
- Week 13
 - Christianity pt 2
 - Quiz
- Week 14
 - Islam pt 1
 - Sacred Text Discussion
- Week 15
 - Islam pt 2
- Week 16
 - Final Due

SUBJECT TO CHANGE