

## FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

S-2017 Introduction to Religion

SPRING 2017 - Instructor Gregory Pope

Tu-Th 9:30- 10:45 AM

Academic One - Room 155

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### 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.

## 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 the particular religion. 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, observe that religious community, and then give an oral presentation on that religious community in the class. This presentation should highlight your religious experience.

**Essay:** Each student will choose any Topic that is associated with Women Liberation 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**

<b>JANUARY</b>	10	Introduction
	12	Ishmael, Section 1& 2 (Lecture)
	17	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	19	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
	24	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	26	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
	31	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	02	Library (Instructional Session)
	07	Library (Discovery Session)
	09	Academic Writing Center (Lecture)
	14	Video (Research Paper Due)
	16	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion
	21	Video
	23	Jewish Spirituality (Group 1 Oral Presentation)
	28	Video
<b>MARCH</b>	02	Islamic Spirituality (Group 2 Oral Presentation)
	07	Video
	09	Hindu, Spirituality (Group 3 Oral Presentation)
	21	Video
	23	Buddhist Spirituality (Group 4 Oral Presentation)
	28	Video
	30	Grant, White Women's Christ
<b>APRIL</b>	04	Grant, White Women's Christ
	06	Grant, White Women's Christ
	11	Grant, White Women's Christ (Essay Due)
	13	Grant, White Women Christ

18 Grant, Black Women's Jesus  
20 CLASS REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

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