

REL 3308-U06 (11882) Studies in World Religions
Spring 2017

Days and Times: M, W, F, 12:00 a.m. to 12:50 a.m.
Room: PC 438

Instructor: Adam D. Gorelick
Office Hours: OE 165E, by appointment
P: 305-348-4100 | F: 305-348-2118 | agorelic@fiu.edu



PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. Students should e-mail the instructor with any questions about the assignments and schedule.

Course Description

This course examines the origins, teachings, and practices of selected world religions. The specific religions selected for examination may vary from semester to semester.

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to...

- Apply critical thinking skills to various topics in the field of religious studies.
- Explore the origins, nature, functions, and definitions of religion.
- Bracket out personal bias and attempt to understand the point of view of religious adherents.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems—as pertaining to the development and practice of religions.
- Analyze topics in religious studies through multi-perspective analyses of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- Demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world and to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.
- Conduct field research to better understand a religious community.
- Speak intelligently about the relationship between religion and other cultural phenomena such as art, literature, music, etc.

Global Learning Objectives

Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.

Course Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape the actions of multiple figures in diverse cultural contexts.

Global Perspectives: Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.

Course Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze the multiple causal forces that shape the perspectives of historical individuals/persons — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.

Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

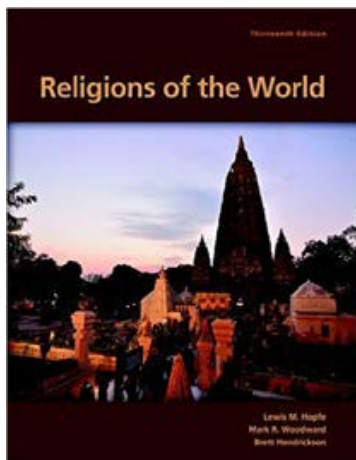
Course Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate a willingness to engage in negotiation regarding actions of global import within the context of the class simulation.

Texts

Hopfe, Lewis M., Mark R. Woodward and Brett Hendrickson. Religions of the World. Upper Saddle River, 13th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2016. Print.

ISBN 13: 978-0-13-379382-6

ISBN-10: 0-13-379382-6



Additional selected readings will be assigned.

Gordon Rule Course

This is a Gordon Rule course which means you must demonstrate “college level writing skills” throughout your assignments. You will not receive any credit as a Gordon rule course for a C- or lower upon completion of this course. Your written assignments must show good control of grammar, style, and structure. Your papers must have a clear thesis, supporting material, and a conclusion.

Guidelines for Written Work

All written work must consistently adhere to the MLA Formatting and Style Guide. Students are advised to carefully proofread all papers before submitting them. All students are encouraged to take advantage of the University resources for writing to be found in the Center for Excellence in Writing, a full-service writing center providing writing assistance and feedback to university students. For more information, go to <http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/>.

All written work is submitted through <http://turnitin.com>. Plagiarism can result in expulsion from the university and will have a negative effect on your entire college career. All written work must include your name, Panther ID number, course number and the name of the professor on the title page. It must be double spaced, have 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) and be typed in 12 point font, Times New Roman or Calibri.

Religious Holidays

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), if you have not done so already." Please note that if you have a student who is registered with the DRC, you will receive notification about the student's disability and a detailed description of accommodations the student will require.

Academic Conduct

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Note: Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and written assignments are to be submitted to turnitin.com.

Grading Scale

94 - 100 A

90 - 93 A-

87 - 89 B+

84 - 86 B
80 - 83 B –
77 - 79 C+
74 - 76 C
60 - 73 D
0 - 59 F

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation – **15% of final grade**

Quizzes – Quizzes will be unannounced and will cover material from the readings and lectures. **15% of final grade**

Midterm Essay Exam – The midterm exam will be a take-home essay exam. Students will answer two of three questions (in total, 1000-word minimum). See below for dates. **20% of final grade**

Final Exam – The final exam will be multiple-choice. See below for date. **20% of final grade**

Research Proposal – Students will conduct a research paper on a topic of their choosing, subject to approval from the instructor. The instructor encourages students to be creative in selecting a specific topic that will appeal to them individually. A formal proposal is required and will count as **10% of final grade**. The proposal must include the following components:

1. A working one-sentence thesis statement connecting the specific focus of the research to religion.
2. A paragraph explaining the intended structure of the research paper, including at least three ideas in support of the thesis statement.
3. A preliminary annotated bibliography with at least 3 scholarly sources. An annotated bibliography requires a brief paragraph after each source listed. Each paragraph will summarize the content of the source, critique its value, and consider its usefulness for the project at hand.

Research Paper - The final draft of the research paper (1250-word minimum) will count as an additional **20% of final grade**. The bibliography or works cited must include at least 4 scholarly sources.

Calendar

Week 1 (1/9 to 1/15)

Introduction: Syllabus and Overview

Required Reading: Hopfe, et al., pp. 1 -8

The Study of Religions

Week 2 (1/16 to 1/22) [No Class Meeting on MLK Day, 1/16]

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 1

Native American Religions

Week 3 (1/23 to 1/29)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 2

African Religions

Week 4 (1/30 to 2/5)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 3

Hinduism

Week 5 (2/6 to 2/12)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 4

Jainism

Week 6 (2/13 to 2/19)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 5

Buddhism

Week 7 (2/20 to 2/26)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 6

Sikhism

Week 8 (2/27 to 3/5)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 7

Midterm Take-Home Essay-Exam: available 2/27; due 3/6, 11:59 p.m.

Chinese Religion

Week 9 (3/6 to 3/12)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 8

Spring Break

Week 10 (3/13 to 3/19) [No Class This Week: SPRING BREAK]

Shinto

Week 11 (3/20 to 3/26)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 9

Research Proposal: Due 3/27, 11:59 p.m.

Judaism

Week 12 (3/27 to 4/2)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 10

Christianity

Week 13 (4/3 to 4/9)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 11

Islam

Week 14 (4/10 to 4/16)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 12

Baha'i

Week 15 (4/17 to 4/23)

Reading: Hopfe et al., through ch. 13

Research Paper: Due 4/20, 11:59 p.m.

Week 16 (4/24 to 4/29) Finals Week – **Final Exam: 4/28, 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at PC 438**

***This syllabus is subject to change. Please confirm with instructor that you have the latest version.**