

**FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING-2019**

**REL 2011 B52 Introduction to Religion
Instructor Gregory Pope**

Tu-Th 9:30- 10:45AM

AC II Rm. 115

Email: Popegb@fiu.edu

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

Anatomy of The Sacred, James C. Livingston, ISBN 978-0-13-600380-9 (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.**

“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>

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:

5%.....Class Participation

5%.....Group Presentation 1

25% Research Paper

20%.....Group Presentation 2

20%.....Essay

25%.....Final Exam

Assignments: There will be a Research Paper, Group Presentations, an Essay, and an Exam...

Group Research Paper: Students will be divided into groups, and each group will be assigned a particular religion. Then, each student will write a 12-page group research paper about that particular religion and how it influences oppression/liberation (including the historical, religious-political, and social contexts). The final draft will be submitted to Turnitin.com. The students may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. All papers should be double space with 12' font.

Group Presentation: Each group will visit a religious site, or interview a religious leader from an assigned religious community, and then give an oral presentation about that religious community in the class. This presentation should highlight the historical, political, and social contexts of that religious community- both from the research paper and site visit/interview. A written copy of the presentation will be given to the instructor.

Essay: Each student will choose any Topic that is associated with contemporary Women issues and write a 3-5 page critical paper comparing it with the Grant text. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com by each individual student. All papers should be double space with 12' font.

Final Exam will be on the texts and lectures on the texts. The exam will consist of Definition of Terms, True and False Questions, 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, monitoring attendance is mandatory during the first few weeks of class. Unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade.

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

JANUARY	08	Introduction
	10	Ishmael, Section 1& 2 (Lecture)
	15	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	17	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
	22	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	24	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
	29	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
	31	Academic Writing Center
FEBRUARY	05	Library (Instructional Session)
	07	Library (Final Application)
	12	Video (Research Paper Due)
	14	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion

	19	Jewish Spirituality (Group 1 Presents)
	21	Video
	26	Islamic Spirituality (Group 2 Presents)
	28	Video
MARCH	05	Hindu, Spirituality (Group 3 Presents)
	07	Video
	19	Buddhist Spirituality (Group 4 Presents)
	21	Video
	26	Grant, Women's Experience
	28	Grant, Feminist Christology
APRIL	02	Grant, Biblical Feminist
	04	Grant, Liberation Feminist
	09	Grant, Rejectionist Feminist (Essay Due)
	11	Grant, Analysis of Feminist Christology
	16	Grant, Black Women's Experience
	18	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
	29	Review for Final Exam

*****Final Exam TBA**