

Religious Studies Department
REL 3308 Studies in World Religions -HYBRID
Spring 2019
Biscayne Bay Campus

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays
8:30am to 9:45am and by Appointment

Room #: Academic One 130

Class Days and Hours: MW 11am-11:50am

Why should we 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? 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.

This is an introductory course to world religions and one of the many courses that complete the Global Learning requirement. Since it is an extensive subject, we will be focusing on some of the major religions of our world, examining them from its historical, sociological, anthropological, psychological, and ritualistic practices. Furthermore, we will also learn about religions that are no longer in practice and had influenced some of today's religions. We will analyze the differences and similarities between religions and associate their practices, beliefs, and applications to contemporary issues in our world.

What are the Objectives of the course?

- Demonstrate an understanding of themes, definitions and symbols relating to religion.
- Compare and contrast the key underlying beliefs and principles of the major Eastern, Western, indigenous and shamanic religions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the evolution and movement of religious beliefs from ancient to contemporary times.

- Evaluate religious truth claims as potential sources of knowledge.
- Demonstrate an increased empathetic awareness of religious diversity and differences.
- Appreciate the history, basic teachings, practices, and underlying beliefs and principles of some of the world religions, analyzing them in a critical way and understanding their similitudes and differences.
- Challenge his/her own misconceptions of what religion and its practices are and open his/her mind to new ideas.

What is important to learn as a global citizen? What are the University Requirements for the Global Learning Objectives?

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

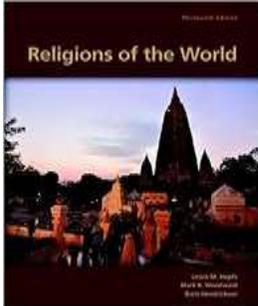
How does a hybrid course work?

We will spend 50% of the time dedicated to the course in person, engaging in learning, clarifying concepts, debating, working in groups, and discussing and developing each of the concepts covered in the course.

The other 50% of the time takes place outside the class, whether it is writing papers, watching videos, reading articles, and providing opinions on different topics. My responsibility is to provide you with lots of material and activities for you to apply and put into practice the concepts learned in class and from the readings. Your responsibility is to read the textbook and complete the assignments in a timely manner. This will enable us using the time in class to look

at different examples and current events that correlate to the concepts we are learning in class.

What will help us answer the questions posed in our course?



RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD, BY HOPPE, LEWIS AND WOODWARD
MARK, THIRTEENTH EDITION. NEW JERSEY, PEARSON EDUCATION,
2011.

ISBN-10: 0-205-15860-9

ISBN-13: 978-0-205-15860-7

- **Required Text:** *this is the mandatory book for the class, but feel free to read as many articles related to the class as you want and share them with the rest of the class. It is not required to purchase MyReligionLab with your textbook.*

How will you and I evaluate your progress?

- **Ten (10) ten-question quizzes** from which the lowest score will be dropped. The quizzes will be available for 24 hours on Canvas (please consult the calendar for dates) and students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes will be on the reading material and class lectures. (15% of final grade)
- **Midterm and Final Exams.**
 - **Midterm:** will cover the first half of the semester and will include multiple choice and true and false, 50 questions in 55 minutes. (15% of final grade)
 - **Final:** will cover from second half of the semester and will include multiple choice and true and false, 50 questions in 55 minutes. (15% of final grade)
- **Research Paper:** For this project students will have to choose a topic, concept, ritual, myth, or custom practiced in two different religions and compare and contrast them. For example, you can compare and contrast the Inca's myth of creation with one of the creation stories in the Bible. You will have to use scholarly sources for this assignment, no websites or Wikipedia articles will be accepted. A research session at the

library will be set up so each student learns how to conduct proper research and use the resources we have at the university.

The proposed topic needs to be approved by the professor and the paper must have the following components: Bibliography and Draft (1000-1500 words, 30% of the grade for the paper), and final essay (1500-2000 words.)

Your grade on the final essay will consist of four parts: **Draft** (30%), **Content and Argument** (30% of grade), **Organization, Structure, and Research** (25% of grade), and **Style and Grammar** (15% of grade).

- **Content and Argument** refers to how well you logically build your case and follow the FIRES model (Facts, Incidents, Reasoning/Rationale, Examples, and Statistics). FIRES makes for a more interesting paper in which you back up your points with specific examples and facts.
- **Organization, Structure and Research** refers to solid introduction (with thesis statement), building of argument and points, and finishing with a sound conclusion.
- **Style and Grammar** refers to how well you write: grammar, sentence structure, word usage, including use of interesting and varied words and phrasing.
- **Online activities:** Every week (unless indicated otherwise in the class calendar) you will have to submit an activity and earn points, a total of 100 for all activities. Each activity will become available under Assignments or the corresponding module at the beginning of the day on Friday each week and is due at midnight on the Wednesday after, after which the link for the assignment will no longer be available. All the due dates are listed on the course's calendar Points will be deducted for poor grammar or typos. (20% of final grade)
- **Attendance and participation:** Attendance to in person class is mandatory, and students are expected to engage in class discussion, after all, we are only meeting half of the time in person. Missing more than 4 classes in the semester will result on losing 80 points for the total of 100 for attendance and participation, the rest will be based on your online reflection participation. **Online reflection:** When covering each chapter of the book, you will have to submit a reflection via Canvas and a response to someone else's reflection. Make sure you read the instructions on the discussion board, because sometimes I will ask a question that needs to be answered in the discussion. Engagement in discussion boards on

Canvas is important and will count towards your grade for attendance and participation. (15% of final grade)

Item	% of grade
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Research Paper	20%
Online Activities	20%
Attendance, Participation, and Online Reflection	15%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
A	93 and Above	C+	76-79
A-	90-92	C	70-75
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	83-86	F	Below 60
B-	80-82		

A's are awarded to exceptional work in class and assignments

B's are awarded for good to very good work.

C's are awarded for average to above average work.

D's are awarded for barely passing with below average work.

F's are awarded for unacceptable work.

How will you succeed in this course?

- **Attending and participating in class:** Be ready to be an active learner and participate in class discussions and activities. In order to maximize your learning experience, I ask you that you refrain from using your phone in class or using your computer for other things than taking notes. We will sometimes use the computer or phone for activities, so have them handy.
- **Complete the assigned reading before coming to class:** If you know the material, you will be able to actively participate.
- **Check Canvas at least 5 times a week.** There are many things to do there, such as submitting assignments and participate in discussions, so be active. I will be monitoring your participation. To log into Canvas go to www.canvas.fiu.edu and use your Panthersoft credentials.

- **Submit essays on time.** There will be 2 points taken off your final grade for the essay per late day, up to 16 points total. If students don't submit the essay by the latest for submission date marked on the calendar, the essay won't be graded and students will receive a zero grade.
- **Submit online activities on time:** Remember the link disappears at 11:59pm on its due date, which is always a Wednesday, so make sure you complete the activity before the deadline, otherwise you will not receive any points for it.
- **Take Quizzes and tests on time:** If you miss a quiz, you will lose the points the quiz is worth. And I understand things happen, so if you let me know in advanced you won't be able to take a quiz, I will re-schedule it for you. However, there will be no make-up dates for the final exam.
- **Extra Credit.** Sometimes some students may need an extra help, and it usually involves attending a special lecture and writing a summary and analysis. The essay could be worth up to 3 extra credit points to be added to the final grade. A maximum of 6 extra credit points could be awarded. Please refer to the list of events provided on Canvas.
- **Using FIU's resources to help you.** Click on the links below to access information
 - [Center for Excellence in Writing](#): To help you draft, revise, or polish any written work.
 - [Center for Academic Success](#): To help you with reading skills, study techniques, and grammar.
- **Be open minded and have fun!**

What are the school policies for this course?

This is a Gordon Rule course and you must attain at least a C to receive any credit as a Gordon rule course. Under the Gordon Rule, FIU requires that student papers: 1) have a clear thesis or controlling idea; 2) have a thesis supported with adequate reasons and evidence; 3) be organized clearly and logically; 4) show sustained analysis and critical thought; 5) show knowledge of conventions of standard written English; and 6) show awareness of disciplinary conventions in regard to content, style, form, and delivery method.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property of others, including their ideas, concepts, and words. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Please visit <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm>

The expectation is that students will submit their own original work. Previously Submitted Coursework will not be admitted.

To clarify what constitutes plagiarism for this university. Offenders will receive an "F" on the paper.

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- Papers acquired online or from other sources that were not produced by the student that have submitted them.
- Copying material and ideas from other sources without attribution.
- Using other students' work.

Behavioral Misconduct: Any student who is subject to sexual harassment, stalking, or physical or verbal abuse should immediately speak to the instructor. The university has policies to protect students in these instances and the instructor will immediately refer the student to the appropriate program or resource. Remember, this is a course in which different ideas are welcomed, even if they do not agree with our own notions.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities, as defined by law, have the right to receive needed accommodations if their disabilities make it difficult to perform academic tasks in the usual way or in the allotted time frame. However, in order to receive accommodation, students with disabilities must register with Disability Resource Center. This office will keep the student's written request, notify a faculty member who has a student with a disability enrolled in his/her class, and indicate what kinds of arrangements must be made.

Religious Holidays: By university policy, students must notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance that he/she wishes to observe a religious holyday. The student will be excused from class without penalty, but will still be responsible for the material studied in the class.

For University's deadlines, please refer to <http://onestop.fiu.edu/academic-calendar/>

Important Note: *This syllabus is a contract and can be amended determined by the demands of the course. It outlines everything you need to know for this course. Please make sure you have read it carefully.*

REL 3308: Studies in World Religion

Spring 2019

Course Outline and Calendar

Week 1: Introduction and approaches to religion

- **Readings:** *Pages 12-21 of Religions of the World by Hopfe and Woodward.*
- **Content Covered:**
 - Introduction and course overview
 - Introduction to religion: Definitions, origin of religions, etc.
- **Online activities**
 1. Write 5 things you need to do in order to get an “A” in this course
 2. Watch video on Ancient Religions and answer question

Week 2: Ancient Religions

- **Content covered:**
 - Ancient and Mesopotamian Religions
- **Online activity**
 - Watch class on Amerindians and Native Americans and answer questions
 - **Quiz #1 – Introduction to religion, Ancient Religions**

Week 3: Other Native Religious ways

- **Readings:** *Chapter 3 of Religions of the World by Hopfe and Woodward*
- **Content Covered**
 - Basic/ Indigenous and African Religions
- **Online activity**
 - Watch video “Machu Pichu Road to Sky” and answer question
 - **Quiz #2 Basic/ Indigenous and African Religions**
 - **Research class at the Library**

Week 4: Eastern Religions

- **Readings:** Chapter 4 of Textbook
- **Content Covered:**
 - Hinduism

Online activity

- Watch video “Around the world in 80 faiths, the Far East” and answer questions

● **Topic to be analyzed due – Please submit it on Blackboard by 11:59pm**

Week 5 Eastern Religions (Contd.)

- **Readings:** Chapter 6 of *Religions of the World* by Hopfe and Woodward.
- **Content Covered:** Hinduism/ Buddhism
- **Online activity**
 - Watch video “Around the World in 80 Faiths, the Indian Subcontinent” and answer questions
 - **: Quiz #3 on Hinduism**

Week 6: Eastern Religions

- **Readings:** pages 116-124 of *Religions of the World* by Hopfe and Woodward and pages 156 to 165
- **Content Covered:**
 - Buddhism
- **Online activity** Watch class on Daoism and answer questions answer questions
- **: Quiz #4 on Buddhism**

Week 7 Eastern Religions, and Midterm

- **Readings:** Chapters 5 and 7
- **Content Covered:** Jainism/ Sikhism
- **Online activity:** none assigned this week – Study for midterm exam
- **Quiz #5 – Jainism**
- **Quiz #6 – Sikhism**

Week 8: Judaism

- **Readings:** None assigned
- **Content Covered:** Confucianism
- **Online activity (2 activities are due next week):**
 - Midterm review: Look for 5 questions you got wrong in the midterm exam and explain what is the correct answer and why
 - What’s my grade? Review your grades and write 5 things you can do to improve your current grade.

- **Midterm Exam**
- **Bibliography and draft due by midnight in Blackboard** -see guidelines posted under course content

Week 9 Judaism

- **Readings:** Chapter 10 of textbook
- **Content Covered:** Judaism
- **Online activity :** None. Enjoy your Spring Break!

SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Judaism

- **Readings:** Chapter 10 of Textbook
- **Content Covered:** Judaism
- **Online activity:** Watch assigned presentation on Christianity and answer questions
- **Last day to drop course with DR grade**
- **Quiz #7 on Judaism**

Week 11 Christianity

- **Readings:** Chapter 11 of Textbook
- **Content Covered:** Christianity
- **Online activity**
 - Watch the video on Hajj and describe the rituals that are part of it and what they mean

Week 12 Christianity /Islam

- **Readings:** Chapter 12 of Textbook
- **Content Covered:** Christianity/ Islam
- **Online activity** Watch video on radical Islam and answer questions
- **Quiz 8 on Christianity**
- **Paper due by 11:59pm via Blackboard**

Week 13: Islam/ New religious movements

- **Readings:** Chapter 12
- **Content Covered:** Islam
- **Online activity** Watch presentation on Wicca and Baha'i and answer questions

- **quiz #9 on Islam**
- **Last day to submit any essays**

Week 14: Contemporary issues

- **Content Covered:** Violence and religion/ Cults and Sects
- **Online activity due:** none assigned
- **Quiz #10: Violence and religion/ Radical Islam/ Cults and Sects**
- **Last day to submit Extra credit reports.**
- **Make up quiz**

Final week of the semester. Please consult FIU's website for finals

Important Note: *This calendar can be amended determined by the demands of the course.*