REL 3027 RVBB Meditation and Mystical Traditions (Fully Online)

Summer B – (6/17/19 - 7/26/19)

Florida International University

Instructor: Yulianti Yulianti

Email: yyuli001@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The faculty of the Department of Religious Studies has developed this course, with each professor lecturing on meditation and mysticism in his or her area of religious specialization.

The course will examine meditation and mysticism within each of the major world religions, as well as within some indigenous religions utilizing narrated PowerPoint presentations, the Carmody textbook, the Tucker textbook, and a variety of readings and videos.

Students will be tested on this material through:

- Time-restricted quizzes – 13 in total
- Midterm Exam (Objective and Essay portions)
- Final Exam (Exam (Objective and Essay portions)
- Short Response Assignments

Summer Sections of this Course: Please note that this course is a 15-week semester compressed into 6 weeks. Time management and organizational skills is key to successfully completing this course with minimal stress. Plan your weeks strategically, in order to complete assignments by their respective due dates.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions.
- Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.
- Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols.
- Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
- Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
- Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
- Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

Please review the FIU's Policies webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. Computer literacy is the ability to manage and organize computer files efficiently, as well as being able to navigate your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

For more information about prerequisites, click here.

TEXTBOOKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</th>
<th>Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter the Ecological Phase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Carmody and John Carmody</td>
<td>Mary Evelyn Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>0195088190</td>
<td>0812695291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>978-01950881S9</td>
<td>978-0812695298</td>
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Textbooks may be purchased/rented via the FIU Bookstore.
EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course; most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. Online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills, which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located under Modules
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Attempt the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review the course syllabus and calendar
- Submit assignments on time

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via Inbox

Conversations are email-like messages sent within Canvas' internal messaging system. Students are alerted to new messages on their dashboard screen upon logging in.

It is recommended that students log in to Canvas daily and review their Inbox for private messages and/or Announcements from the instructor.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUIZZES (20%)

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be attempted through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services.

A time-restricted, multiple-choice quiz will be given on each week's religious concept. The questions in the quizzes will draw from the weekly Modules, including audio lectures and assigned readings.

Quiz Availability: Open from Monday, 12:00AM to Sunday, 11:59PM (see Course Calendar for specific dates.)
Quiz Duration: Students will have 20 minutes to answer 10 multiple-choice questions.

Quiz Attempts: Quizzes may be attempted twice. The highest of the two attempts will count towards the student’s final grade. It is not mandatory to take each quiz twice.

Quiz Resets: Please limit quiz reset requests to instances when technical issues compromised both quiz attempts. The second attempt is meant to be a “backup” attempt for situations where the first attempt was not completed successfully.

Reopening quizzes after the due date has passed will require verifiable documentation.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and/or internet connection, it is very important that the "Practice Quiz" be attempted prior to beginning the quizzes or exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

The correct answers for quizzes will not be released to students. Students will be able to see submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers.

EXAMS (60%)

Exam 1 (30% of overall grade) and Exam 2 (30% of overall grade) consist of both objective and essay portions. The objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 are both online, time-restricted examinations. These are in the Assessments area in Canvas.

Students will have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2, unlike the quizzes. Please make note of this important difference.

The essay prompts for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability period. The essay portions of these exams must be submitted via Canvas. See the Assignments content area for essay topics.

The essay portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

Short Response ASSIGNMENTS (20%)

**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 BY TURNITIN.**

There will be ten (10) short written response assignments in this course. However, only four (4) of these are required to be completed. At the end of the course, only the 4 highest scores of the 10 assignments will be factored into your final grade in the class. The assignments will become available under the Assignments area according to the course calendar dates.
Assignments will become available on Monday, 12:00AM and will close on Sunday, 11:59PM. Submit your work directly in Canvas under the Assignments area. See course calendar for assignment availability.

Your written responses should demonstrate that you have done the readings and have reviewed the Modules.

Each assignment will have specific instructions. You need not agree with all or any claims made in the course material, but you should be able to explain the basis of your agreements and/or disagreements. Some of the assignments require longer responses than others; most can be easily answered in less than 2 paragraphs.

Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com electronic receipt (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers

Late submissions will NOT be accepted, except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies.

Avoid leaving assignment/quiz submissions for the last minute before a deadline. “Heavy user traffic” during this timeframe may cause delays and/or errors, which can lead to students missing crucial deadlines.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

Assignment Submissions

All work has to be submitted through Canvas. Canvas does not allow instructors to submit on behalf of students. Please do not email your assignments to your instructor.

If you encounter errors or issues submitting an assignment, click on “Help” inside Canvas Course (located on the left-hand panel inside the course) and select Chat with Canvas Support (student). A live chat with Canvas support can fix the issue immediately.

Quiz Resets

Please limit quiz reset requests to instances when technical issues compromised both quiz attempts. The second attempt is meant to be a “backup” attempt for situations where the first attempt was not completed successfully.

Reopening quizzes after the due date has passed will require verifiable documentation.
Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. 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

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](http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm)

Offenders will receive a grade of “F” for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

**Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. Turnitin will flag it for plagiarism.**

Extra Credit

No Extra Credit work will be accepted in this course.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Objective and Essay (Exam 1)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Objective and Essay (Exam 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz (Average)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Assignments (Average)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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**COURSE CALENDAR**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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|        | **Before you start the course: Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course deadlines and assignment details. Use the course calendar below to navigate through the course’s contents.**

**Topic:** Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions

**View:**
- Dr. Northup: *Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism*
- Dr. Huchingson: *The Hardware of Mysticism* (all presentations are found under PowerPoints in Modules)

**Read:**
- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 1
- Nancy Murphy, "Whatever happened to the Soul?" under Modules

**Due via Assignments**
- A1 - Hardware of Mysticism Available Monday- Sunday

**Take:**
- Quiz 1: Available Monday- Sunday
<table>
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<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic:</td>
<td>Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>View:</td>
<td>Dr. Rey: <em>Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean</em></td>
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</table>
- Dominique Zahan, "Reflections on African Spirituality" (in Modules)  
- Mary Ann Clark, *Santería: Correcting the Myths and Uncovering the Realities of a Growing Religion*, chapter 7. Full text available through *Netlibrary*. |
<p>| Due via Assignments: | A2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism - Available Monday- Sunday |
| Take: | Quiz 2: Available Monday- Sunday |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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| **Week 2**<br>June 24 | **Topic:** Meditation and Mysticism among Native Americans  
**View:**  
Dr. Huchingson: *Meditation and Mysticism Among Native Americans*, I & II.  
**Read:**  
- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 8  
- William A. Young, *Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions*, chapters 1, 4, 5. Full text available through Netlibrary. Or via Modules  
**Due via Assignments:**  
A3 - Native American – Available Monday- Sunday  
**Take:**  
Quiz 3: Available Monday- Sunday |
| **Week 3**<br>July 1 | **Topic:** Meditation and Mysticism in Indian Religions  
**View:**  
Dr. Katz: *Meditation and Mysticism in Theistic Hinduism*, I-III  
**Read:**  
*Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 2  
**Take:**  
Quiz 4: Available Monday- Sunday |
| **Week 3**<br>July 1 | **Topic:** Meditation and Mysticism in Daoism and Chinese Religions  
**View:** Dr. Heine: *Meditation and Mysticism in Chinese Religions*  
**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 4  
**Due via Assignments:** |
### Module: Week 4

#### Topic: A4 – Daoism - Available Monday- Sunday

(You must do four – how many have you done so far?)

**Take:**

Quiz 5: Available Monday- Sunday

**Topic:** Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism / Zen Buddhism

**View:** Dr. Heine: *Intro to Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism, Meditation and Mysticism in Zen*

**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 3

**Due via Assignments:**

A5 - Zen Mysticism Readings and Questions - Available Monday- Sunday

How many of the required four have you done?

**Take:**

Quiz 6: Available Monday- Sunday

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#### Midterm (Exam 1)

Midterm Available Monday - Sunday

**Take both parts: Objective and Essay**

**Topics:**

- Mysticism in Judaism
- Sephardic Judaism
- Hasidic Judaism

**View:**

- Dr. Zohar: *Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism*
- Dr. Stier: *Hasidic Judaism*

**Read:** *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 5

15 short "Additional Essays on Hasidism" by Immy Humes, which can be found: [https://www.pbs.org/alifeapart/res_essays.html](https://www.pbs.org/alifeapart/res_essays.html)

These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see [here](https://www.pbs.org/alifeapart/res_essays.html)).
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<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> There is one error in the readings: In the essay titled &quot;Inside the Community: A Holy Life,&quot; the author translates the Hebrew acronym for Chabad as &quot;Wisdom, Learning, and Faith.&quot; The acronym actually stands for &quot;Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding.&quot; Please make a note of this.</td>
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</table>
|        | **Due via Assignments:**  
|        | A6 – Hasidic – Available Monday- Sunday |
|        | **Take:**  
|        | - Quiz 7: Available Monday- Sunday  
|        | - Quiz 8: Available Monday- Sunday |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>July 15</th>
<th>Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>View:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dr. Larson: <em>Mysticism in Early Christianity</em>, I &amp; II</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</em>, Chapter 6</td>
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<td>- Gregory of Nyssa, <em>Homily 6, On the Beatitudes</em> (pp. 90-91). Full text available through <a href="#">Netlibrary</a>.</td>
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</table>
|        |         | **Due via Assignments**  
|        |         | A7 - Early Christianity  
|        |         | Available Monday- Sunday |
|        |         | **Take:**                                            |
|        |         | Quiz 9: Available Monday- Sunday                      |

<p>| Topic: Mysticism in Catholicism &amp; Protestantism |
| <strong>View:</strong> |
| - Dr. Gudorf;, <em>Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism</em> |</p>
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<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪  <em>Prof. Alvarez: Mysticism in Protestantism</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Read:**

- Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (pp. 25-42). Full text available through *Netlibrary*.

**Due via Assignments**

- A8 - Christian Mystic - Available Monday- Sunday

**Take:**

- Quiz 10: Available Monday- Sunday
- Quiz 11: Available Monday- Sunday

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*Note, this week is shorter than the rest of the weeks because Summer A semester ends on Friday*

**Topic:** Meditation and Mysticism in Islam & Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions

**View:** Dr. Musa: *Meditation and Mysticism in Islam*  
Dr. Bauman: *Nature Mysticism*

**Read:**

- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 7  
- "Mystical Islam and Sufi Brotherhoods" in Islam: An Introduction by Annemarie Schimmel; 1992 (available [here](#))  
- "What is Tasawwuf (Sufism)?" An Anonymous Persian Poem – translated by A. A. Godlas (available [here](#))  
- "The Chapter on Dhikr" from at-Targhib wa at-Tarhib, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani , (available [here](#)) Mary Tucker, *Worldly Wonder*, pp. 1-54
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<th>MODULE</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Due via Assignments:</strong></td>
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<td>▪ A9 - Protestant Mysticism - Available Monday-Saturday</td>
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<td>▪ A10 - Islamic Assignment – Available Monday-Saturday</td>
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<td><strong>Take:</strong></td>
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<td>o Quiz 12: Available Monday- Saturday</td>
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<td>o Quiz 13: Available Monday- Saturday</td>
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<td><strong>Final (Exam 2)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final -Exam 2: Objective- Available July 22, Monday – July 26, Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final -Exam 2: Essay: Available July 22, Monday – July 26, Friday</td>
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