

SUMMER B 2020

Course Syllabus



REL2011: Introduction to Religion

Instructor Information Table

 <p>Dr. Albert Wuaku</p>	<h3>Instructor Information</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: wuakua@fiu.edu• Phone: 305-348-0112• Office: DM309, MMC
<p>Course Time Zone Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.</p>	

General Information

Course Description and Purpose

What do we mean when we say a person is religious or an object, place, or space has a religious identity? Can we define religion or the religious? What elements make up a Religion? How do religious beliefs and groups originate and why do humans practice religion? How do religious beliefs, including beliefs such as witchcraft in African Religions, which might seem bizarre in the eyes of some outsiders, persist in these cultures? How do such religious beliefs influence the behaviors of humans?

Above are only a few of the questions we will be seeking answers to in this very exciting and stimulating introduction to the academic study of religion. Our focus will not be on particular religions. Rather we will draw examples from an array of religious beliefs and practices as we seek answers to questions pertaining to the phenomenon of religion. These traditions will include African and African originated religions, Hindu religious beliefs and practices, the indigenous traditions of the Americas, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity.

NOTE- This is a hybrid course, which means while most of the course work will be conducted online, there will be direct instruction from the professor via zoom once a week. There are power-point notes on all topics and these will be made available to the class on canvas.

Course Objectives

This course has five main objectives:

- To introduce students to concepts relevant to the understanding of religion as a dimension of societal life.
- To examine the dynamics of the relationship between religion and other aspects of society such as politics and the economy.
- To develop critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating theoretical perspectives on religious belief and action.
- To encourage students to apply the concepts covered in the understanding of their personal religious lives and past and contemporary religious issues in their societies.
- To introduce studies to practical approaches in the study of lived religious experiences

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will recognize religious themes and concepts in the world's cultures
- Students will identify the meanings of religious concepts and symbols
- Students will evaluate their own religious views in relation to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
- Students will apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies
- Students will be able to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world
- Students will conduct field research within religious communities to better understand lived religious experiences

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook and Course Materials

Textbook Table

	<p>Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion James C. Livingston Pearson, latest Edition, ISBN-10: 013600380X ISBN-13: 978-0136003809 You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore (Links to an external site.).</p>
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Expectations of this Course

This is a hybrid course, which means while most of the course work will be conducted online, there will be direct instruction from the professor via zoom. If a zoom meeting will take place, it will be on Tuesdays. The time for the meeting will be announced to the class. Expectations for performance in a hybrid course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, hybrid courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students. I will however do all I can to make learning in this course easy and fun for students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

All e-mails sent to the instructor should reflect a professional manner and adhere to the following format:

- **Subject Line/Heading:** Place your question/comment in the subject heading.
- **Also,** identify this class (REL2011),
- **Text:** The text of the message should begin with Dear Dr. Wuaku. The message should follow and end with the student's full name.

Example E-mail:

Below is an example of the format I expect from e-mail inquiries. Please remember you can also call me on 305-348-0112 or 954-651-0580 if you need to speak with me.

From: Joe Doe doee@fiu .edu (Use FIU email address/account)
To: Albert Wuaku wuakua@fiu .edu
Subject: Textbook (Web Hybrid Class 2011)

Dear Dr. Wuaku,

I have a question about the textbook. Do we have to buy it from the book store or can we order it online? I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Joe Doe.

Please remember you can also call me on 305-348-0112 or 954-651-0580 if you need to speak with me.

Discussion Forums

Throughout the semester the instructor will post messages to the discussion board that requires a response or activity from each student. Each post will be graded. Each discussion is worth 25 points. To receive all possible points, a posting must be on time, be easy to read, free of careless mistakes, and appropriately address the issue(s) or question(s) presented by the instructor. Also, each student must address or respond to viewpoints of at least three others in the class. Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

There will be a multiple choice quiz after a combination of topics. Each quiz will be worth a total of 100 points. A student has only 2 attempts at answering the multiple-choice questions. The highest score will be recorded.

Assignments

As a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write Essays. There will be one End of Semester Essay.

The Essay

This is an analysis of and response to an Article by Anthony Appiah, on Globalization. The Title of this essay is "The Case for Contamination". The essay should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. The essay is worth 100 points.

It is a reaction paper and demands a summary of the author's key themes and your own reflections on and response to these themes.

Attendance

The class meets on zoom one time a week. Attendance is mandatory and will be checked during each meeting,

Grading

The Final Grade will be determined by a tally of points scored throughout the semester. These points will be converted into percentages [that is, Points scored by student/total number of points x 100]. Please keep printed copies of all assignments and graded material. If you cannot produce your class material in a grade dispute, the grade recorded in the instructor's grade book will take precedence.

Students are required and responsible for all assigned text readings and material from Blackboard. Students are expected to check the Announcement and Assignment sections of Blackboard for this class at least every other day. Students who take this course are expected to have the skills necessary to complete all assignments. Essay Assignments must not be sent as attachments to the professor. They

must be posted in the Assignment drop box. I will not grade them if you send them to me as attachments.

If you have computer technology questions during the semester, you should contact the FIU Computer Help Desk.