

REL 3027 Meditation and the Mystical Traditions - Summer A - 2020 - RVAA - Fully Online

Professor Information



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**Additional
Notes :**

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

Upon completing this course, 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. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Technical Requirements and Skills

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but 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.

Privacy Policy Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [Google](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock\(PDF\)](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [NBC Learn](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

Accessibility and Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [Google](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [NBC Learn](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for additional information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Academic Misconduct Statement

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 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 Conduct and Honor Code. Academic Misconduct includes:

Cheating

- The unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids or assistance from another person on any academic assignment or exercise, unless explicitly authorized by the course Instructor;
- Assisting another Student in the unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids, unless explicitly authorized by the Instructor; and
- Having a substitute complete any academic assignment or completing an academic assignment for someone else, either paid or unpaid; and

Plagiarism

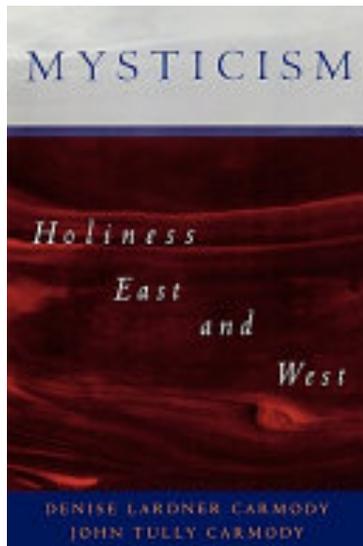
- The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the Student's own.
- Assisting another Student in the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.



Title : Mysticism

Authors : Denise Lardner Carmody, John Tully Carmody, John Carmody

Publish Date : Dec-1995

ISBN 13 : 9780195088199

Additional Notes : Additional Notes

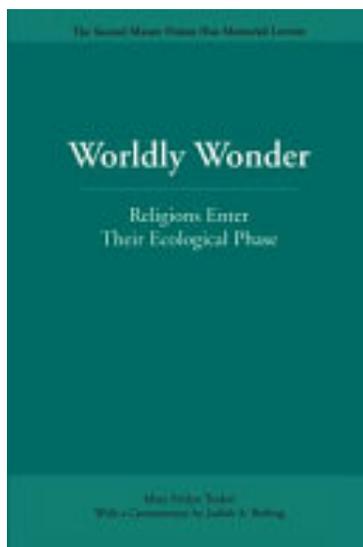
Publisher : Oxford University Press, USA, Dec-1995

ISBN 10 : 0195088190

Notes : Notes

[Purchase/Rent at FIU Bookstore](#)

Defining the mystical experience in terms of a direct encounter with ultimate reality, an examination of the mystical experience as it has been found in six major world religions illuminates the lives and beliefs of each tradition's outstanding mystics. UP.



Title : Worldly Wonder

Authors : Mary Evelyn Tucker

Publish Date : Dec-2002

ISBN 13 : 0812695291

Additional Notes : Additional Notes

Publisher : Open Court Publishing, Dec-2002

ISBN 10 : 9780812695298

Notes : Notes

[Purchase/Rent at FIU Bookstore](#)

History illustrates the power of religion to bring about change. Mary Evelyn Tucker describes how world religions have begun to move from a focus on God-human and human-human relations to encompass human-earth relations. She argues that, in light of the environmental crisis, religion should move from isolated orthodoxy to interrelated dialogue and use its authority for liberation rather than oppression.

Expectations of This Course

This is an online course, which means 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. In fact, 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 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;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **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.

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.

Assessments - General Info

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. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Canvas Help Team](#).

Quizzes (20%)

A time-restricted, multiple-choice quiz will be given on each module'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 unless otherwise indicated (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.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	13	10	130	20%
Objective Exams	2	50	100	30%
Essay Exams	2	50	100	30%
Short-Response Assignments	4	100	400	20%
Total	21	N/A	730	100%

Grading Scale

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Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %
A	95 or above	B	83-86	C	70-76
A-	90-94	B-	80-82	D	60-69
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	F	59 or less

Some text bellow the table

Course Calendar

Modules

▼ Student Resources

 [FIU Resources](#)

 [Technical Support](#)

 [Policies](#)

▼ Week 1

 [Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 1: Introduction](#)
100 pts

 [Assignment 1 - Hardware of Mysticism](#)
100 pts

 [Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 2: African and Afro-Caribbean Religions](#)
100.02 pts

 [Assignment 2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism](#)
100 pts

▼ Week 2

 [Meditation and Mysticism among Native Americans - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 3: Native Americans](#)
100.02 pts

 [Assignment 3 - Native American](#)
100 pts

 [Meditation and Mysticism in Indian Religions - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 4: Indian Religions](#)
100 pts

▼ Week 3

 [Daoism & Chinese Religions - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 5: Daoism and Chinese Religions](#)
100 pts

 [Assignment 4 - Daoism](#)
100 pts

 [Buddhism / Zen Buddhism - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 6: Buddhism/ Zen Buddhism](#)
100 pts

 [Assignment 5 - Zen Mysticism](#)
100 pts

▼ Week 4

 [Midterm - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Midterm Exam - Objective](#)
50 pts

 [Midterm Essay Summer 2019](#)
50 pts

 [Mysticism in Judaism - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 7: Judaism and Sephardic Judaism](#)
100 pts

 [Quiz 8: Hasidic Judaism](#)
100 pts

 [Assignment 6 - Hasidic Judaism](#)
100 pts

▼ Week 5

 [Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 9: Christianity](#)
100 pts

 [Assignment 7 - Early Christianity](#)
100 pts

 [Mysticism in Catholicism/Protestantism - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 10: Catholicism](#)
100 pts

 [Quiz 11: Protestantism](#)
100.05 pts

 [Assignment 8 - Christian Mystic](#)
100 pts

▼ **Week 6**

 [Assignment 9 - Protestant Mysticism](#)
100 pts

 [Meditation and Mysticism in Islam - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Assignment 10 - Islamic](#)
100 pts

 [Quiz 12: Islam](#)
100.05 pts

 [Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Quiz 13: Nature Religions](#)
100 pts

 [Final Exam - View, Read, Review](#)

 [Final Exam - Objective](#)
Jun 19 | 50 pts

 [Final Essay Summer 2019](#)
50 pts

Course Calendar

Date	Tasks
Week 1 May 11	<p>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.</p> <p>Topic: Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions</p> <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Northup: <i>Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism</i>▪ Dr. Huchingson: <i>The Hardware of Mysticism</i> (all presentations are found under PowerPoints in Modules) <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Mysticism: Holiness East and West</i>, Chapter 1▪ Nancy Murphy, "Whatever happened to the Soul?" under Modules▪ James Ashbrook and Carol Rausch Albright, "The Humanizing Brain: An Introduction," <i>Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science</i>: vol. 34, no. 1, March, 1999, pages 7-43. Full-text available online from the Florida International University Library (go to Catalogue on Library Homepage, select Journal Title, enter <i>Zygon</i>, and then select March 1999 from the list of <i>Zygon</i> issues). <p>Due via Assignments A1 - Hardware of Mysticism Available Monday- Sunday</p> <p>Take: Quiz 1: Available Monday- Sunday</p> <p>Topic: Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions</p> <p>View: Dr. Rey: <i>Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean</i></p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leslie Desmangles, <i>The Faces of the Gods</i>, (in Modules)▪ Dominique Zahan, "Reflections on African Spirituality" (in Modules)

Date

Tasks

- Mary Ann Clark, *Santería: Correcting the Myths and Uncovering the Realities of a Growing Religion*, chapter 7. Full text available through **Netlibrary**.

Due via Assignments:

A2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism - Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

Quiz 2: Available Monday- Sunday

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

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 2

May 18

Date

Tasks

Week 3
May 25

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:

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

Midterm (Exam 1)

Midterm Available Monday - Sunday

Take both parts: Objective and Essay

Topics:

- Mysticism in Judaism
- Sephardic Judaism
- Hasidic Judaism

View:

- o Dr. Zohar: *Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism*
- o 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 **here**.

These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see **here**).

Note: There is one error in the readings: In the essay titled "Inside the Community: A Holy Life," the author translates the Hebrew acronym for Chabad as "Wisdom, Learning, and Faith." The acronym actually stands for "Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding." Please make a note of this.

Due via Assignments:

A6 - Hasidic - Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

- Quiz 7: Available Monday- Sunday
- Quiz 8: Available Monday- Sunday

Week 4
June 1

Week 5
June 8

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity

View:

Dr. Larson: *Mysticism in Early Christianity*, I & II

Read:

- o *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 6
- o Gregory of Nyssa, *Homily 6, On the Beatitudes* (pp. 90-91). Full text available through **Netlibrary**.

Due via Assignments

A7 - Early Christianity Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

Quiz 9: Available Monday- Sunday

Topic: Mysticism in Catholicism & Protestantism

View:

- Dr. Gudorf:, *Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism*
- Prof. Alvarez: *Mysticism in Protestantism*

Read:

- Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (pp. 25-42). Full text available through **Netlibrary**.
- Jonathan Edwards, *A Divine and Supernatural Light*, pp. 439-451. Full text available through **Google Books**- also available under Modules

Due via Assignments

- A8 - Christian Mystic - Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

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

*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-Tarhib wa at-Tarhib*, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani , (available **here**) Mary Tucker, *Worldly Wonder*, pp. 1-54

Due via Assignments:

- A9 - Protestant Mysticism - Available Monday- Friday
- A10 - Islamic Assignment - Available Monday- Saturday

Take:

- o Quiz 12: Available Monday- Friday
- o Quiz 13: Available Monday- Friday

Final (Exam 2)

Final -Exam 2: Objective- Available Monday - Friday

Final -Exam 2: Essay: Available Monday - Friday

Week 6

June 15