COURSE SYLLABUS
STUDIES IN WORLD RELIGIONS
REL3308 ONLINE SUMMER B

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GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This online section of Studies in World Religions will use a multimedia approach to explore Basic Religions, Native American Religions, African Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Daoism/Confucianism, Shinto, Christianity, Islam, Sects & Cults and Religion in the 21st Century. The student will be introduced to each tradition through the textbook, videos, and PowerPoint presentations offered by the members of the Religious Studies faculty, each in their own research specialization. Students will be tested on this material through time-restricted quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. One essay assignment will be given and is due via turnitin.com. The essay assignment will test each student's knowledge of the world religions and how they compare. There are strict guidelines for this assignment that can be found under the "Essay dropbox" located under Course Content.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast religious societies and cultures in the local, national and/or international context.
- Situate these societies and cultures within contemporary and historical perspective.
- Critically engage the issue of religious diversity in national and/or international context.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES
Please review the policies page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & 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" page to find out more information on this subject.

For detailed information about the technical requirements, please click here.
ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information about the specific limitations with the technologies used in this course, please click here.

For more information about Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment, click here.

For additional assistance please contact our Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

For information about prerequisites, click here.

TEXTBOOK

Living Religions (Required)
Mary Pat Fisher
Prentice Hall, 8th edition

ISBN 10: 0205835856

Click here to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

Important Note: To successfully view the online videos in this class, you will need a high-speed Internet connection. If you only have dial-up Internet, you will need to visit one of the FIU computer labs to download and watch the videos.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.
COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via Messages.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

The Discussion Board will be used for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information. Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUizzes

A weekly time-restricted, online quiz will be given on each religious tradition. You can take each quiz two times, and the higher of the two attempts will be recorded. Even if you do well on the first attempt, it is advisable to use both attempts. You will not receive the same quiz every time; the computer randomly chooses the questions from a quiz database. The objective questions on the midterm and final exams will be taken directly from this database. Thus, the more times you take the quiz, the more questions you will receive and the better prepared you will be for the exams.

For the quizzes, you will have 10 minutes to complete 10 questions. Each quiz will be open from Monday to Saturday, and you can take it on any of those days at any time.

Note: Quiz resets will not be granted. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz.

Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.).

The correct answers for quizzes will not be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted
answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers, in order to study for the midterm and final exams.

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.

EXAMS
The midterm and final are both online, objective exams with multiple choice and matching questions in a time-restricted exam. The midterm will cover Basic Religions, African Religions, Native American Religions, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism while the final exam will cover Daoism/Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Sects and Cults, and Religion in the 21st Century.

TERM PAPER
Turnitin.com
The essay will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Blackboard. Click on the link in the Essay Information folder on the Course Content page. It is not necessary to create an account on Turnitin.com to submit this assignment.

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.

The essay assignment is based on the recent talk by H. H. the Dalai Lama on “The Significance of World Religions.” View the lecture on line, and also read the essay by Shukla (on Blackboard). Then construct an essay based on your studies of world religious that considers the significance of world religions. What is their significance? Why are there so many religions? Consider also Shulka’s essay, to be found on Blackboard. Based on what you have learned and read, would you say that there is an inherent unity behind all of the differing manifestations of religions? Is this what the Dalai Lama is saying? And if the religions different significantly, what are the meanings of these differences? Does Shukla’s characterization of Dharmic/Abrahamic makes sense to you? (Don't forget to provide evidence to support your arguments!)

You will need to do research; your textbook and required readings may not have enough information about the topic. You will need to consult a minimum of three outside sources and one must be a book reference. You will also need notes in your paper, and a Bibliography/Works Cited page. You may use any recognized style manual, but you must use it consistently. The paper should be at least 8 pages long, and no more than 11 pages.

You must use academic sources, meaning sources that are attributed and use citations to back up the author’s claims.

When reading your essays, I will be looking at three different elements: **Content, Style, and Research.** Each will
be taken into account when assigning a grade.

**Research** refers to the information in your paper. Is it correct? Is it detailed? Do you demonstrate basic knowledge of the religious tradition from which the concept is taken? Is this knowledge evident in your description? You must use at least three academic sources in your paper. One of them must be a book reference.

**Style** refers to how that information is presented. This includes the way the information is organized and language skills such as spelling, grammar, and proper sentence structure.

**Argument** refers to the quality of your analysis, how well you support your argument. For more detailed instructions, please see the "Essay" page under Course Content.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Late Papers**

I do not accept late work, except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies. In most cases, excuses will not be accepted. If you wait until the last minute to complete a quiz or an exam, or wait to submit the term paper, the ‘traffic’ may be heavy and the submission may not go through. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK because this is not a valid excuse.

**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 citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the [University Code of Academic Integrity](#) if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

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**GRADING**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz Average (13 Quizzes Total)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective Midterm (Exam 1)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**COURSE CALENDAR**

**SUMMER B 2013 - JUNE 24 - AUGUST 2**

### MODULE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS &amp; READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intro and Basic Religions</strong></td>
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| June 24-26   | **View:**  
PowerPoint presentation "Introduction to Religion" by Prof. Northup.  
Video "Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime."  
**Read:**  
Fisher - Chapters 1, Religious Responses, and 2, Indigenous Sacred Ways  
**Take Quiz 1:** (will remain open until end of 2nd week for late registration)  
Religious Responses and Indigenous Sacred Ways |
| **Week 1.5** | **Native American Religion**                                                           |
| June 27-29   | **View:**                                                                               |

### LETTER GRADE RANGE

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<th>RANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 62</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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### Objective Final (Exam 2)

**Total**

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<td>Objective Final (Exam 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**LETTER GRADE RANGE**

- **A**: Above 93
- **B-**: 80 - 82
- **D+**: 67 - 69
- **A-**: 90 - 92
- **C+**: 77 - 79
- **D**: 63 - 66
- **B+**: 87 - 89
- **C**: 73 - 76
- **D-**: 60 - 62
- **B**: 83 - 86
- **C-**: 70 - 72
- **F**: < 60
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>July 1-3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PowerPoint presentation</strong> &quot;Native American Religions&quot; by Dr. Huchingson.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> William A. Young, <em>Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions</em>, chapter 1. Full text available through <a href="http://www.netlibrary.com">Netlibrary</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Take Quiz 2:</strong> <em>(will remain open until end of 2nd week for late registration)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American Religions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2.5</th>
<th>July 4-6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Religion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> PowerPoint presentation &quot;African Religions&quot; by Dr. Rey.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> E. Thomas Lawson, &quot;The Yoruba and Their Religious Tradition&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Take Quiz 3:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>African Religions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>July 8-10</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hinduism</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> PowerPoint presentation &quot;Hinduism&quot; (Lecture I and Lecture II) by Dr. Katz.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Fisher - Chapter 3, Hinduism</td>
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<td><strong>Take Quiz 4:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>July 8-10</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jainism &amp; Buddhism</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View:</strong> PowerPoint presentation &quot;Jainism&quot; by Samani Charitra Prajna</td>
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<tr>
<td>PowerPoint presentation &quot;Buddhism&quot; by Dr. Heine</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Fisher - Chapter 4, Jainism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher - Chapter 5, Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Take Quiz 5 &amp; 6:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
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| Week 3.5 | **Midterm - Exam 1**  
**July 11, 12:00 am – July 13, 11:59 pm** |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| **Week 4** | **Taoism/Confucianism**  
**View:**  
PowerPoint presentation "Taoism/Confucianism" by Prof. Avila  
PowerPoint presentation "Shinto" by Prof. Avila  
**Read:**  
Fisher - Chapters 6, Taoism/Confucianism, and 7, Shinto  
**Take Quiz 7:**  
Daoism/Confucianism and Shinto |
| **Week 4.5** | **Judaism**  
**View:**  
PowerPoint presentation "Judaism" (Part I and II) by Dr. Stier  
Watch video "Mystic Lands: Jerusalem: Mosaic of Faith."  
**Read:**  
Fisher - Chapter 8, Judaism  
**Take Quiz 8:**  
Judaism  
**Term Paper due July 20, 11:59 pm** |
| **Week 5** | **Islam**  
**View:**  
PowerPoint presentation "Islam" by Dr. Musa.  
**Read:**  
Fisher - Chapters 10, Islam, and 11, Sikhism  
**Take Quiz 9:**  
Islam |
| **Week 5.5** | **Christianity**  
**View:**  
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>July 29-July 31</th>
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PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The First Millennia" by Dr. Larson.
PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The Second Millennia" by Dr. Gudorf.
PowerPoint presentation "Religion in North America" by Dr. Northup

**Read:**
Fisher - Chapter 9, Christianity

**Take Quiz 10 & 11:**
Christianity
Christianity and North American Religion

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**Sects and Cults & Religion in the 21st Century**

**View:**
PowerPoint presentation "Sects and Cults" by Dr. Northup
PowerPoint presentation "Religion in the Future" by Dr. Gudorf

**Read:**
Fisher - Chapter 12, New Religious Movements
Fisher - Chapter 13, Religion in the 21st Century

**Take Quizzes 12 and 13**
Sects and Cults - New Religious Movements
Religion in the 21st Century

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<tr>
<th>Week 6.5</th>
<th>August 1-2</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Final - Exam 2</td>
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<td>August 1, 12:00 am – August 2, 11:59 pm</td>
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