

FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

F-2023 Introduction to Religion

FALL- 2023 – Professor Gregory Pope

**Tu-Th 11:00 AM-12:15 P.M. Academic Center One Rm.
328**

Email: Popegb@fiu.edu or Gpope65310@aol.com

Required Texts:

Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion by James C. Livingston

ISBN 978-0-13-600380-9 ISBN 0-13-600380-x

***Other Material will be provided by the Instructor.**

Course Objectives:

****Students will be able to identify the relationship between religion and culture.**

****Students will be able to identify the function of religion in different socio-political contexts.**

****Students will be able to comprehend the dangers inherited in an “Universal” theology.**

****Students will be able to construct a competent argument for choosing a global perspective of religion as the choice for fully understanding the sacred.**

****Students will be able to understand their embedded religious views over against other world religions.**

****Students will be able to identify the transformative nature of religions under the impact of a sacred world view.**

“This is a Global Learning Foundations course that counts towards

your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement”

Global Learning Objectives Targeted:

****Analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.**

****Assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions.**

****Demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.**

GLOBAL LEARNING GRADUATION HONORS:

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least four global learning courses, extensive language study, and a global problem-solving project. Registration and program acceptance required. For more information, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>

Gordon Rule Requirement:

As this is a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write a minimum of two major assignments. Each paper will be at least 1500-2000 words and will be submitted through Turnitin. All source material must be cited correctly using MLA Style and long quotes should be avoided. Please be aware that papers with an originality score of over 35% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points).

Course Regulations and Procedures:

1) If late arrivals become disruptive or frequent, the professor reserves the right to turn away those who arrive more than fifteen minutes late.

2) No extra work will be accepted to compensate for low grades in the course work, or for missed work.

3) Late papers will be debited one letter grade for each class day late.

4) The grading scale is:

A = 100-93	A- = 92 - 90	B+ = 89 - 87
B = 86 - 84	B- = 83 - 80	C+ = 79 - 77
C = 76 - 70	D=69-60	F = 59 - 0

5) Assignments graded:

- 25% Research Paper**
- 20% Presentation**
- 20%.....Essay**
- 25%.....Final Exam**
- 10% Attendance**

Assignments: There will be a Research Paper, Presentation, Essay, and Final Exam...

Research Paper: Students will be divided into groups, and each group will be assigned a religion (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism). Each group will write a 12-page Research Paper about the Historical Origin and Belief System, Political and Social Contexts, and the Sacred World View. All papers must be typed in dark and legible print, double spaced, with 12' font, including a cover page and work-cited page. The final draft must be submitted to Turnitin by the Group Leader. The final grade will be determined by Style (25%), Spelling (25%), Grammar (25%), and Content (25%) for a total grade of 100 points. Each group member will receive the same grade as the Group Leader.

Group Presentation: Each Group will present a of a recorded Interview of a Religious Authority on the Meaning of the World, the Intent of the Sacred, and the Destiny of Man as it pertains to your assigned religion.... The grade will be determined by: Competence (25%), Group Cohesion (25%), Clarity (25%), and Content (25%) for a total grade of 100 points. Each group member will receive the same grade as the Group Leader.

Essay: Each group must write an 8-page Essay about the Interview containing: the Interviewed (charisma, authority, and education, etc.), the religious implications (meaning of the world, the intent of man, and the destiny of man), and how that religion can/cannot help to solve a social problem. All papers must be in dark and legible print, double spaced, with 12' font, and submitted to Turnitin. The grade will be determined by Format (25%), Spelling (25%), Grammar (25%), and Content (25%) for a total grade of 100 points. Each group member will receive the same grade as the Group Leader.

Final Exam will be on material covered from the Textbook and Class Lectures. The exam will consist of Essays. This is an open book test. The Exam will be email to the students on the date and time given by the University. The students will have the time allotted by the University to complete the Exam, and then must email it back to the Professor.

Attendance: Class attendance is the way to succeed in this course- as some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are not in the textbook. Also, monitoring attendance is a mandate by FIU during the first few weeks of class. In addition, 10 percent of the grade is award for attendance; obsessive absences will result in a lower grade. Three unexcused absences are considered obsessive.

Academic Information and Class Policy:

Plagiarism is literary theft and is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgements, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker. This includes material found on the Internet. Plagiarism includes the unauthorized copying of software and the violation of copyright laws. Plagiarism will result in an “F” on the paper and likely in the class as well. It is also grounds for expulsion from the university. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> for more information.

Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Cheating includes falsifying reports and documents. Cheating on exams will result in zero awarded to both papers (so keep your paper covered).

Incomplete Grades: An Incomplete grade is given only to students who have been regularly attending class, have completed most of the class work, and have experienced an emergency at the end of the term.

Internet: You are encouraged to use the Internet- although, you must be careful and thoughtful when interpreting the data found on the web sites. Remember, the sites with the word “gov/ edu/ org” are usually good sites. This information will be covered further during visit to the library.

DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

AUGUST 22 Introduction (*Discovering embedded Theology*)

	24	Lecture on Religion and Spirituality
	29	Video
Ways Religions conceive the Sacred:		
	31	The Sacred and the Holy
SEPTEMBER	05	Sacred Symbols, Myths, and Doctrines
	07	Sacred Ritual
	12	Sacred Scripture
	14	Class Discussion (<i>Research Papers</i>)
	19	Preparing the Drafts
	21	Video
	26	Review of the Rough Drafts
	28	Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate Reality (<i>Research Papers Due</i>)
OCTOBER		The Origin and Order of the natural and social world:
	03	The Cosmogony
	05	The Cosmogony
THE PROBLEM OF EVIL:		
	10	Views of the Human Problem
	12	Encountering Evil
	17	Encountering Evil
	19	Foundation of Moral Action
	24	Class Discussion (<i>INTERVIEWS AND ESSAY</i>)
	26	<i>INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED</i>
	31	Video
NOVEMBER	02	PRESENTATIONS OF INTERVIEWS

07 Ways and Goals of Salvation and
Liberation

(ESSAYS DUE)

09 Ways and Goals of Salvation and

Liberation

14 The Sacred and Secular in Modernity

16 The Status and the Roles of Women

21 Relations Between Religion and the State

23 *Thanksgiving* (No Class)

28 **Review for Final**

30 Class Conference

Final Exam TBA