



REL 2300

Religions of the World

Section: U06

In Person

Fall Term 2025

Course Meeting Information

Day:	Tuesday, Thursday
Time:	12:30-1:45 p.m.
Location:	College of Business 254

Professor Information

Daniel Alvarez

Roles: Primary Instructor

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Phone: 305-348-2354

Office Hours: MW 2:15-2:50 PM or by appointment

Office Location: SIPA 501

Website: religion.fiu.edu

Department or Academic Unit: Religious Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description and Purpose

Examines the origins, teachings, and practices of selected world religions. The specific religions selected for examination may vary from semester to semester.

Course Goals

1. To provide the student with the "raw materials" for the study of religion by immersing the student in the beliefs, doctrines, rituals, symbols, and (select) scriptures of some of the major world religions.
2. To facilitate the informed cross-cultural comparison and evaluation of ways of being religious by focused study of select world religions.
3. To widen, enhance and enrich the intellectual and spiritual horizons of the student by exposure to the spiritual beauty, vitality, coherence, plausibility and richness of non-Christian, non-Western approaches to the transcendent or ultimate reality.
4. To challenge the student to enter sympathetically into the worldview of the religious traditions selected for study.

5. To provide the context for dialogue and discussion that will enable the student to live in an enormously complex, interdependent, and religiously plural world with patience, understanding, and appreciation for that which is different, and in some cases irreconcilably different, from his or her own "worldview."

UCC Category Description

This course satisfies the University Core Curriculum **Social Sciences, Group 2** requirement.

According to this category:

Social science courses afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- See course goals and objectives above.

Expectations of the Course

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS: GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
 - Course Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape the actions of multiple figures in diverse cultural contexts.
- Global Perspectives: Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
 - Course Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze the multiple causal forces that shape the perspectives of historical individuals/persons — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.
- Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.
 - Course Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate a willingness to engage in negotiation regarding actions of global import within the context of the class simulation.
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Assignments

As a Gordon Rule course, written assignments are required of all students in order to fulfill the State-mandated standards for this course. The Gordon Rule requirement will be met by four (4) writing assignments (see below): a midterm essay exam, a final essay exam, a site visit report, and the globalization question.

Note about the assignments: Students will have two (2) attempts, with highest score being the final score, on all the objective assessments (quizzes and exams). For the written assignments, the instructor will post the questions two (2) weeks before the essays are due on Blackboard. That is, students will have two weeks to write all the written exams, including the globalization question.

Site Visit Format and Short Directory of Religious Sites of South Florida are found at the end of the syllabus. Site visit reports will be staggered throughout the semester if necessary based on alphabetical order- (last name of students). That is, the due dates will not be the same for all students, with some site visits due the 5th week, others the 10th week, to make it easy for the teaching assistants to grade reports in a timely manner.

EXTRA CREDIT: EXTRA CREDIT

During the course of the term, there will various extra credit opportunities available to the student. You will earn one (1) point towards the final grade, based on 100 points. So if you attend five (5) extra credit events, you will have earned five (5) whole points toward your final score total. Students will be allowed to earn up to 5 extra credit points. Proof of attendance to an extra credit event will be submitting a 3x5 index card, which will be collected by the professor and the Teaching Assistants (TAs) after the conclusion of the event (not before).

Only special lectures offered by the Religious Studies Department, Muslim World Studies Initiative, Middle East Studies Center, Judaic Studies, Institute of Asian Studies, and Center for Spirituality count toward extra-credit opportunities and will be announced in class and via email to all students.

THE QUIZZES AND OBJECTIVE EXAMS will be true/false, multiple choice, and the questions will be drawn from the required reading, lectures, and videos. Given this fact, it is important that the student make an effort to attend every class. All exams and quizzes

are online. As explained above, students will have two (2) ATTEMPTS for each of the objective assessments (quizzes).

The quizzes will be twenty (20) questions each. The final exam of one hundred (100) questions will not be comprehensive; it will cover only the material after the midterm exam (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). YOU WILL HAVE ONE (1) HOUR TO COMPLETE THE QUIZZES.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students will have one week to submit assignments to TURNITIN.COM (ON CANVAS). Due dates will be posted on the weeks assignments are due. Papers submitted any time within one week after the first week dates will (that is, the second week) be deducted 10 points; any time during the week after that (the third week) 20 points. No paper will be accepted after the third week (see dates below).

This late paper policy does not apply to the final exam. Final exam will be submitted during the announced submission period and will not be accepted after that.

GET THE RECEIPT: Students should print the Turnitin.com receipt that verifies the date and the hour you they submitted their work. Receipts are essential to settle disputes as to when and whether a paper was submitted (and avoid possible late submission point deductions).

All written work will be submitted through TURNITIN.COM (midterm, final, and site visit).

All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in a "normal" (12 pt) size font (written work submitted in large font will not be acceptable); and any quotations should follow the

manual of style or the standard style recommended by FIU.

This course may also fulfill the Critical Inquiry requirement of the FIU core curriculum if the student earns a grade of "C" or higher. A "C-" or lower grade will not satisfy the Critical Inquiry requirement.

Grades will be posted 10 days after the last due date of the week papers are submitted. Please do not ask for your grade before the ten days are up.

Quotations from internet sources (Wikipedia, Encarta, and the like) will not be accepted. All source quotations must be from the assigned textbooks.

ALL WORK WILL BE DONE ONLINE AND SUBMITTED TO CANVAS.

Assessments

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Midterm Essay Exam, Two (2) Short Essays (500-700 words), on questions provided by instructor: 15% of final grade)

2. Final Essay Exam: Two (2) Short Essays (500-700 words), on questions provided by instructor (15% of final grade).

3. Two (2) Quizzes:

Quiz #1, on Hinduism and Buddhism: 20 questions (10% of final grade).

Quiz #2, on Chinese Religions (Taoism and Confucianism): 20 questions (10% of final grade).

4. Objective Midterm, 50 questions, two attempts, 2 hours, on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism (15% final grade).

5. Objective Final, 50 questions, two attempts, 2 hours, on Judaism, Christianity, Islam (15% of final grade).

6. Site Visit (4-5 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) (15% of final grade).

7. Globalization Question (essay format): students will write an essay (minimum of 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) on Kwame Anthony Appiah's "The Case for Contamination" (5% of final grade).

Grading

A	94-100	C	65-72
A-	90-93	D	64-60
B+	87-89	F	59-0
B	82-86		
B-	78-81		
C+	73-77		

Textbook and Course Materials

Religions of the World

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Lewis M. Hopfe, et al.

Publisher: Prentice Hall

Publication Date: 2013

Copyright Date: 2013

ISBN 10: 9780135570784

ISBN 13: 9780135570784

Bhagavad Gita

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Franklin Edgeron

Publisher: Harvard University Press

Publication Date: 1972

Copyright Date: 1972

ISBN 10: 9780674069251

ISBN 13: 9780674069251

EBK MECHANICS OF FLUIDS

Panther Book Pack

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

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. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 hours.

Policies & Resources

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](#).

In addition, the [FIU Policies and Procedures Library website](#) serves as the official repository for university-wide policies and procedures.

Core Principles of this Course

This course will serve to embrace the diversity and inclusivity found within Florida International University. We appreciate and respect diversity, equality, equity, cooperativeness, community, and sustainability within our online courses. We are committed to the ongoing education of our students and their participation within the course regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, geographical location, religion, and disability. We strive in encouraging collaboration by preparing our students to value the differences in others. At the core of our intentions is the encouragement of acceptance and appreciation of differences within our student population and community.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility (CRCA)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, gender, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through report.fiu.edu.