



REL 2011

Introduction to Religion

Section: B52

In Person

Fall Term 2026

Course Meeting Information

This class is scheduled from 11:00 AM- 12:15 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays in AC I, 326

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an overview of the world's major religions and their practices. It will cover topics such as the history and evolution of religion, religious world views, and religious texts, symbols, myths, rituals, and beliefs.

Purpose: it to help students comprehend the role of religion in society and how it has influenced, shaped, and altered culture.

Textbook and Course Materials

Anatomy of the Sacred An Introduction to Religion

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: James C. Livingston

Publisher: Pearson/Prentice Hall

Publication Date: 2009

Copyright Date: 2009

ISBN 10: 0-13-600380-x

ISBN 13: 9780136003809

Notes: This is a must

Description: Paper Back

Chapters/Pages: 15 Chapters and 398 Pages

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Course Goals

To analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives. To assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions. And to demonstrate creative thinking about religious issues in the contemporary world.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Identify the relationship between religion and culture, the functions of religion in different socio-political context, comprehend the danger in an "Universal Theology", construct a competent argument for choosing a global perspective of religion as the choice for fully understanding the Sacred, understand embedded religious views over against other world religions, and identify the transformative nature of religious spirituality..

Expectations of the Course

1. Students are expected to attend class on time.
2. Students are expected to read assigned reading prior to the class meeting.
3. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading.
4. Students are expected to complete assignments by the due dates.
5. Students are expected to take exams on the date scheduled for the exam.
6. Students are expected to turn off cell phones, except in cases of emergency.
7. Students are expected to participate with other students.

Assignments & Assessments

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.

Grading

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

Schedule of Topics

DUE DATES

AUGUST: The Study of Religion

SEPTEMBER: Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression

OCTOBER: The Universal Components of a Religious Worldview

NOVEMBER: The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity

DECEMBER: Review for Final and Class Conference

Course Communication

You can reach me via Popegb@fiu.edu, and I will respond through canvas.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights** (OCR) 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, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.

UCC Category Description

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

Humanities courses afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy.