



REL 2300

Religions of the World

Section: RVD

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Erin Weston

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: [course messages in Canvas or eweston@fiu.edu](#)

Response Time: 48 hours or less

Phone: N/A

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Zoom

Website: <https://religion.fiu.edu/people/faculty/weston.erin.html>

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Religious Studies

Course Description

“Studies in World Religions” is a survey of the major religious traditions of the

world. The course is designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of these traditions, and to enable students to think sensitively and critically about the religious world. This course will cover general concepts in: the Academic Study of Religion, Indigenous Religious Practices, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Alternative Paths, and Religion and the Modern World. In an effort to create a multifaceted understanding of the myriad ways in which the sacred is expressed, we will be viewing both orthodox and various popular forms of religious expression.

UCC Category Description

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

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

- Students will be able to identify the essential characteristics that distinguish the major religious traditions;
- Students will be able to describe the basic components of each major religious tradition, such as its myths, rituals, doctrines, ethics, and artistic expressions;
- Students will be able to describe religious conflicts and trends in the modern world;
- Students will be able to express ideas and opinions clearly in writing as well as orally.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Textbook and Course Materials

EXPERIENCING WORLD'S RELIGIONS-CODE

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Michael Molloy

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Publication Date: 2021

Copyright Date: 2021

ISBN 10: 9781260813746

ISBN 13: 9781260813746

Notes: You will need the code in order to access the book through Perusall, which we will use to annotate the text.

Chapters/Pages: N/A

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](#).

Policies & Resources

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](#).

Assignments & Assessments

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.

Assignments

- Introduce Yourself Blog
- Weekly Blog
- Perusall Assignments
- Instagram Assignment Discussion
- Paper Proposal
- First Draft Paper
- Peer Reviews
- Final Research Paper

Quizzes

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. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Panther Book Pack & McGraw Hill Connect

What is Panther Book Pack?

Panther Book Pack is an affordable course materials program providing all undergraduate students with their required course materials by the first day of class at a fixed rate of \$20 per credit hour. Students are estimated to save as much as \$375 on course materials per semester with the Panther Book Pack program.

While you are automatically enrolled for the Panther Book Pack at the time that you register for classes, you may opt out if you do not wish to participate. We encourage you to compare pricing before you do. If you've done the research and still don't think that the Panther Book Pack is the right fit for you, you can opt out through the MyFIU portal from the day you receive your Panther Book Pack email until three days after the add/ drop date on the Academic Calendar (Links to an external site.) for that term. Please note: The Panther Book Pack program is designed to be an all-in or all-out solution by session for the lowest flat rate possible. Participation is by session for all courses, not by individual course, therefore participation in some courses but not others in each session is not possible.

Find more information regarding Panther Book Pack [Links to an external site..](#)

How does Panther Book Pack work with Connect?

Since students are automatically opted in to participate in Panther Book Pack, all students will receive codeless "temporary access" to Connect on day one of

class through Canvas.

Watch instructions on how to register for Connect through CanvasLinks to an external site.. (Links to an external site.)

Students who remain opted in will have an active Connect license for the remainder of the semester. No further action is needed.

If students choose to opt out of Panther Book Pack, their Connect access will be revoked shortly after the add/drop period ends. At that time, the students will need to purchase a Connect access code as one will be required in order to regain access. If a student loses access to Connect, their work will be saved.

Who to contact for support?

Questions related to Panther Book Pack should be directed to Barnes & Noble by emailing bookpack@fiu.edu or calling 305-348-2961. Questions related to Connect should be directed to McGraw Hill Customer Support by calling 1-800-331-5094.

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, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as 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;
- log in to the course at least 5 times per week;
- respond to discussion boards, blogs, and journal postings by the due date specified.
- respond to messages within 3 days;
- submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course 4 times week;
- respond to blog and journal postings within 1 week of the deadline;
- respond to messages within 3 days;
- grade assignments within 2 weeks of the assignment deadline.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the integrity of the University. The principles of academic freedom are integral to the conception of the University as a community of scholars engaged in the pursuit of truth and the communication of knowledge in an atmosphere of tolerance and freedom. The University serves the common good through teaching, research, scholarship/creative activities, and service. The fulfillment of these functions rests upon the preservation of the intellectual freedoms of teaching, expression, research, and debate. We affirm that academic freedom is a protected right in addition to a faculty member's constitutionally protected freedom of expression and is fundamental to the faculty member's responsibility to seek and to state truth as he/she sees it.

Academic freedom does not only relate to scholarship and pedagogy. Students also have the academic freedom with the university setting. Students are

encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

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.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Canvas to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. 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.

Visit our Writing Resources (Links to an external site.) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the quality of your assignments and your participation in this course. **Grades are not rounded.** For example, an 89.7 is a "B+."

Please see the Table, below, for a list of the major projects and points for each. If you feel that your final grade was incorrectly calculated, please let me know.

Final Grades Addendum

Final grades are non-negotiable, although if I have made a mistake posting your final grade, please let me know. By the time we have reached the final grade, it is TOO LATE to try to raise your grade. If Extra Credit opportunities are provided

during the semester, you should take the time to complete them. DO NOT come to me at the end of the semester and ask for a grade change because you “deserve” a better grade, or because you really “want” a better grade, and you normally receive “X” in your other classes. Your points are available to you throughout the semester; please make note of where you stand and take the initiative to meet with me if you have concerns.

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight
Quizzes	12	10%
Introduce Yourself Video Blog	1	2%
Weekly Blog - (1 lowest grade dropped)	12	12%
Perusall Assignments	12	20%
Instagram Assignment discussion	3	6%
Paper Proposal	2	5%
First Draft Paper	1	5%
Peer Reviews	3	5%
Final Research Paper	1	5%
Midterm Exam	1	15%
Final Exam	1	15%
Total	52	100%

Letter Distribution

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
A	Above 95	B	83-86	C	70-76
A-	90-94	B-	80-82	D	60-69

B+	87–89	C+	77-79	F	<59
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Schedule of Topics

Weekly Schedule

Date	Topic
WEEK 1	WELCOME – COURSE INTRODUCTION Topic: Understanding Religion
WEEK 2	Topic: Indigenous Religions
WEEK 3	Topic: Hinduism
WEEK 4	Topic: Buddhism
WEEK 5	Topic: Jainism & Sikhism
WEEK 6	Topic: Daoism & Confucianism
WEEK 7	Topic: Shinto
WEEK 8	Midterm Exam
WEEK 9	Topic: Judaism Part I

Date	Topic
WEEK 10	Topic: Judaism Part II
WEEK 11	Topic: Christianity Part I
WEEK 12	Topic: Christianity Part II
WEEK 13	Topic: Islam
WEEK 14	Topic: Alternative Paths PowerPoint
WEEK 15	Topic: The Modern Search
WEEK 16	Final Exam

This is a tentative outline of the course. It is subject to change with written notice.

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, 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.