



REL 2300

Religions of the World

Section: U01

In Person

Fall Term 2026

Course Meeting Information

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 10:50AM-2:10PM

Class meeting times	
Day:	MonWedFri
Time:	11:00AM- 11:50AM
Location:	Graham Center 285

Professor Information

Raymond Awadzi

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: rawadzi@fiu.edu

Phone: 305-348-2186

Office Hours: MONDAY 1:30-2:30 PM

Office Location: Office: Religious Studies Department: SIPA 508

Department or Academic Unit: Religious Studies

Additional Notes

Or By Appointment

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course covers twelve main religious traditions of the world. These include Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, African Indigenous Religion, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. In studying these religious traditions, we will address ourselves with their major teachings and locate their emergence within respective historical and socio-cultural contexts. Similarities and differences between these religions will be discussed. We will, as well, identify each religion's unique contribution to the emerging complexities and dialogues resulting from encounters between the religious traditions at local, national, continental, and the global stage. Thus, studying these religious traditions will provides us useful lenses to view and analyze the complex world in which we have become active and passive actors from the local to the global stage. To do these, we engage, through reading and discussing some texts that provide us with information on the religious traditions. In addition, we will review some scholarly articles, documentaries, and other relevant literature about these religions with particular focus on how they have transitioned from one historical era to how they have become in contemporary times.

Course Goals

Goals

1. Student will be equipped with requisite knowledge and analytical skills

relevant to adequately address contemporary issues regarding socio-cultural including religious discourses at local and global level.

2. Students will be exposed to some deep-seated socio-cultural and religious traditions, values and practice that underpin contemporary socioeconomic, environmental, and political behavior as well as some driving forces behind some scientific research and practices.
3. It will also train students to embrace different cultures in our ever-growing global society.
4. The course will further broaden students' knowledge on religious traditions and related values, and ethnical systems for self-introspection as well as dealing with inherent biases.

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

- 1. Identify different religious traditions and respective cultures that shape individual and societal lives in America and beyond.
- 1. Compare and contrast how the different religious claims, belief systems and practices are used to explain everyday phenomena and in response to different existential issues in society.
- 1. Evaluate how these religious claims, beliefs and practices have influence popular cultures that define their own identities and that of others.

- 1. Design research topics to illustrate how the knowledge acquired through exposure to these religious traditions are applicable to address sociocultural issues including conflict resolution and peace building in multicultural contexts.

Expectations of the Course

This is a traditional in-person course, which means most of the course work, especially instructions and some assignments will be conducted in classroom setting. Expectations for performance in this class is the same for all traditional courses. Student are, however, required to master a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which to access some course resources as well as be able to communicate effectively through canvas.

Students are expected to:

- Review course syllabus to familiarize yourself with course content.
- review course materials assigned to each topic before coming to class. See attached pdf syllabus for class schedules with respective topics
- Acquire required reader (textbook) by the end of first week of class.
- be punctual in class and participate in class discussions
- log in to the course canvas regularly for any announcements
- respond to discussions by the due date specified, when discussion assignment are created
- respond to emails within 24hour.
- submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- log in to the course at least once in every 24hours.
- respond to discussion postings within at least 3 days of the deadline.
- respond to emails within 12 hours;

- grade assignments within on time to allow helpful feedback.

Assignments & Assessments

1. Attendance and Participation
2. Groups Research and Presentation
3. Mid-term Exam
4. Globalization Reflection Essay
5. Final Exam

Grading

Insert notes about grading here. You may want to use something similar to the table below. Edit or remove the table as needed for your course.

Example:

Course Grading Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Sample: Quizzes	Ex: 3	Ex: 50	Ex: 200	Ex: 25%
Attendance	12	100	100	20%
Group Research and Presentation	1	100	100	15%
Midterm Exam	1	100	100	25%
Globalization Question	1	100	100	10%
Total	N/A	N/A	500	100%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Final Exam	1	100	100	30%
Total	N/A	N/A	500	100%

Textbook and Course Materials

Religions of the World

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Lewis M. Hopfe, Mark R. Woodward and Brett Hendrickson

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 2009

Copyright Date: 2016

ISBN 10: 9780135570784

ISBN 13: 0135570784

Chapters/Pages: All Chapters

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](#).

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Title: ANATOMY OF THE SACRED

Subtitle: An Introduction to Religion

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: James C. Livingston

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 1998

Copyright Date: 2009

ISBN 10: 013600380-X

ISBN 13: 978-0-13-6000380-9

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.

Schedule of Topics

Students will be updated with actual class schedule before the first day of class.

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.

Course Awards

This course satisfies UCC requirements.

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.

Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Ethical academic behavior is necessary requirement for a successful completion of this course. For this reason, plagiarism and related misconduct will attract serious disciplinary measures.

Additional Resources:

- [Student Conduct and Honor Code](#)
- [Digital Millennium Copyright Act Policy](#)
- [FIU - Copyright Guidance for Students](#)
- [FIU Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#)