



## REL 2300

### Religions of the World

Section: U06

In Person

Fall Term 2026

### Course Meeting Information

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| Class meeting times |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Day:                | TuTh                |
| Time:               | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM |
| Location:           | SIPA II 259         |

### Professor Information

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Carlos Grenier

**Roles:** Primary Instructor

**Email:** [cagrenie@fiu.edu](mailto:cagrenie@fiu.edu)

**Phone:** 3058157502

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3 PM

**Office Location:** SIPA 2, 524

**Department or Academic Unit:** Religious Studies

## Course Prerequisites

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Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

## Course Description

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This class will explore many religious traditions practiced throughout the world. By paying constant attention to their similarities and differences, it is hoped that this course will acquire a large-scale picture of global religious diversity. We will examine the practices of major and minor world religions – from Native American and African traditions, through Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and East Asian religions, and finally the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will discuss the historical contexts of their emergence and spread, the points of contact and dialogue with each other, the nuances of their belief systems and institutions, and their individual contributions to world civilization. This course will also place a great emphasis on discussion of primary texts.

## Textbook and Course Materials

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**Religions of the World**

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward

**Publisher:** Pearson

**Publication Date:** 2014

**Copyright Date:** 2014

**ISBN 10:** 0133793826

**ISBN 13:** 9780133793826

**Chapters/Pages:** whole book

### **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)**

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Other materials will be posted on Canvas.

## **Course Goals**

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1. To provide the student with a large amount of details and information on the beliefs, rituals, symbols, and scriptures of major world religions.
2. To facilitate cross-cultural comparisons of religious faith and practice.
3. To broaden the intellectual and spiritual horizons of the student by exposure to the beauty, vitality, truth, and power of religious approaches to reality.
4. To challenge the student to enter sympathetically into the worldviews of the religious traditions selected for study.

5. To prepare the student for informed, ethical participation in our religiously plural world.

## Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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Learn to apply this knowledge to the understanding of the religious landscape of the world in which they live.

Achieve a broad familiarity with global religious traditions

## Expectations of the Course

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Attendance is mandatory for each class session. Assignments must be completed on time, unless there is a good reason for a late submission. In these cases, the student is expected to communicate with the instructor prior to the original deadline.

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.

### AI POLICY:

Using an AI Natural Language Model (such as ChatGPT) to complete a writing assignment is strictly forbidden in this course. Any evidence of such use will result in a zero for the assignment.

## Assignments & Assessments

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Weekly Source Reading Reflection (20%)

Quizzes (16%)

Practice Reflections (16%)

Midterm Exam (16%)

Final Exam (16%)

Attendance and Participation (16%)

## Course Communication

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All course information will be communicated via Canvas. If necessary, students can reach the instructor at [cagrenie@fiu.edu](mailto:cagrenie@fiu.edu).

## Policies & Resources

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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
- Core Principles of This Course
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

## Grading

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1. Weekly Discussion Responses (20%)
2. Weekly Quizzes (20%)
3. Midterm Exam (15%)
4. Final Exam (15%)
5. Site Visit (15%)
6. Attendance and participation (15%)

## Schedule of Topics

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### Week 1

#### Overview

#### The Study of Religion

Hopfe Chapters 1, 2,

Discussion 1 posted

### Week 2

#### Indigenous Traditions I

Hopfe Chapter 2, 3

#### Indigenous Traditions II

Discussion 1 due

Quiz 1 posted

Discussion 2 posted

### Week 3

**Yoruba Religion**

No Readings

**Hinduism I**

Hopfe Ch. 4

Quiz 1 due

Discussion 2 due

Quiz 2 posted (on Hinduism)

Discussion 3 posted

**Week 4****Hinduism II****Hinduism/Jainism**

Quiz 2 due

Discussion 3 due

Quiz 3 posted (on Hinduism and Jainism)

Discussion 4 posted: Buddhist Sutras from Tripitaka

**Week 5****Jainism/Buddhism**

Hopfe Chapter 6

**Buddhism II**

Quiz 3 due

Discussion 4 due

Quiz 4 posted (on Buddhism)

Discussion 5 posted

**Week 6**

**Buddhism III**

Hopfe Chapter 9

Hopfe Chapter 8

**Sikhism / Intro to East Asia**

Quiz 4 due

Discussion 5 due

Discussion 6 posted: Daodejing

Quiz 5 posted (on East Asian religions)

**Week 7****Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism II****Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism III**

Quiz 5 due

Discussion 6 due

**Week 8****Midterm Review****MIDTERM POSTED (no class)**

Site Visit Project guidelines posted

**Week 9****Religions of the Middle East**

Midterm Due

**Religions of the Middle East, early Judaism**

Hopfe, Chapter 11

Quiz 6 posted (on Judaism)

Discussion 7 posted: The Hebrew Bible

### **Week 10**

#### **Judaism II**

#### **Judaism III**

Discussion 7 due

Quiz 6 due

Quiz 7 posted (on Judaism)

Discussion 8 posted: Gospel of John, Gospel of Mark

### **Week 11**

#### **Christianity**

Hopfe Chapter 12

#### **Christianity II**

Quiz 7 due

Discussion 8 due

Quiz 8 posted (on Christianity)

Discussion 9 posted: Augustine, Luther

### **Week 12**

#### **Christianity III**

#### **Modern Christianity**

Quiz 8 due

Discussion 9 due

Quiz 9 posted (on Christianity)

Discussion 10 Posted

### **Week 13**

#### **Islam**

Hopfe Chapter 13

#### **Islam II**

Discussion 9 due

Quiz 9 posted (on Islam)

Discussion 11 posted: Qur'an

### **Week 14**

#### **Islam III**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

Discussion 10 due

Quiz 9 due

### **Week 15:**

#### **New Religions**

#### **Exam Review, Presentations**

#### **FINALS WEEK**

Site Visit Project due

Final Exam

## **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](https://report.fiu.edu).

## UCC Category Description

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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.