



REL 3185

Healers and Mediums

Section: RVC

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: eweston@fiu.edu

Response Time: 24-48 hours

Phone: 305-348-2186

Office Hours: TBA & By Appointment

Office Location: Zoom

Department or Academic Unit: Religious Studies/SIPA

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This online course investigates healing outside the norm of the USA through mediumship, channeling, PSI (paranormal psychological phenomena), shamans, animals and plants, and offers a unique experience through alternative global practices that are studied through the use of texts, electronic readings, video streaming, artwork and resources information. In addition, the skeptic viewpoint that questions the validity of such healing and PSI experiences is included. An overview of accepted global alternatives in health and religious practices of categories that were considered taboo in Western medicine for many years, are currently being investigated and implemented by institutions of higher learning, universities and research laboratories in the US and worldwide. "Healers and Mediums" (through religious and cultural practices) treat diseases, maladies, and physical-emotional-spiritual problems encountered by human beings. Many treatments have been used for hundreds or thousands of years, and lie outside the normative practice of Western science, technology and medical practices.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Global Perspective - Students will be able to analyze the multiple global forces that shape their and others' understanding of a deeper and broader sense of healing on Earth- economically, political, sociological, technological, and cultural.

Global Engagement - Students will be able to develop solutions to local, global, international, and/or intercultural problems and be able to articulate the causes and contributions to these problems.

Global Awareness - Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated global dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic and other values) that have been known to influence practices, both currently and historically, in

diverse cultural contexts.

Textbook and Course Materials

No Textbook Required for purchase.

Required/Recommended: N/A

Authors: N/A

Publisher: N/A

Publication Date: N/A

Copyright Date: N/A

ISBN 10: N/A

ISBN 13: N/A

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](#).

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 **5 times** per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond** to **emails** within **2 days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course 5 week;
- respond to **emails** within **24 hours**;
- grade assignments and/or provide feedback within **14 days** of the assignment deadline.

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

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

Assignments & Assessments

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. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#) .

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#) .

Quizzes

There will be fully online quizzes covering each section. Your quiz scores will be averaged together for a final quiz score worth 10% of your final grade. All quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions, and each question will be worth 10 points. A quiz will be available from Monday 12:00 am till Monday 11:59 pm of the given week. Once you open a quiz, you will have 30 minutes to complete and submit it. You will have two attempts to take a quiz. The highest score will be counted.

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. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#) .

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#) .

Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams based on the readings and materials covered throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 12% of your final grade. All exams consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, true/false, each worth 2 points, and essay questions worth 10 points each. Exams must be taken during their availability period. Once you open an exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete and submit it.

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. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#) .

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#) .

Exams 1, 2, and 3 use Honorlock as a proctoring tool. For more information regarding Honorlock, please see the [Honorlock FAQs page](#).

Journal Reflections

There will be weekly journal reflections, which will only be seen by the student and the professor. These reflections will only be graded that they were completed, but not for content. This will provide an opportunity for students to interact privately with the professor in regards to the course content. Journals may be a short paragraph, but must be turned in on time to receive credit. Altogether, the journal entries will be worth 7% of your overall grade.

Annotation Assignments

You will access the book chapters through Perusall, a tool for collaborative annotations. You are required to contribute at least 4 high-quality annotations for every chapter and are encouraged to interact with your peers by commenting on their annotations.

Blogs

Blogs are an open communications tool for students to share their thoughts. Here you can post text, images, links and attachments, open for comments. These will be completed within Discussions on Canvas. Blogs can be found in Discussion on the course menu or within the content area of the course.

- There will be ten course blog topics. The topics will be posted in the "Discussion" in the Course Content. Students must post well thought-out comments based on the required work throughout the semester. Participation is required and represents 11% of your final grade. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade. All students are required to participate in all the three topics (at least 200 words). Blogs must be posted during the period they are assigned and are due by 11:59 pm on the Monday which ends that particular lesson.
- Once you have composed your original posting, take some time to carefully review other postings within your discussion group. Pick two that are most interesting to you and provide meaningful, detailed, and constructive

feedback.

- Keep in mind that your blog postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

• Critical Book Review & Proposal

For your paper, you will write a **critical book review on a book of your choice**. I have posted a list of possible options, but you are free to choose other books as well. Each essay will be between **1200 to 2000 words** long and will be worth 12% of your grade. These are formal academic essays and students must cite their sources. MLA is the preferred citation style in Religious Studies.

You will also need to submit a short proposal (200 words) providing basic information about your book choice. The proposal is worth 2% of your overall grade.

Turnitin- Read [Turnitin's Privacy Policy](#)

Late Papers: Late papers are only accepted under extreme and verifiable conditions.

Students are responsible for reading their messages and all announcements posted by the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1. A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
 2. Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
 3. Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.
- Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See

the [University Code of Academic Integrity](#) if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

Important:

You will need to do research; your textbook and required readings will not have enough information about the topic. You will need to consult a minimum of three outside sources and one must be a book reference. You will also need notes in your paper, and a Bibliography/Works Cited page in MLA style.

Do not use Wikipedia as an internet source. You may use internet sources, but use only academic sources from the internet. (Academic sources list individual authors, name their sources, and have institutional affiliations.) Points will be deducted for infractions of these rules.

If you have questions regarding how to cite or what to cite, ask me BEFORE you submit your essay. If you turn in your paper and you "accidentally" plagiarize parts of your essay, you will fail the assignment and possibly the course. Better safe than sorry! To reiterate, ask me before the due date if you are unsure about how to cite your sources.

****Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.**

Review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

Individual Wiki Presentation

After you have written your critical book review, you will also create your own wiki page for your book. This wiki will be shared with the class. Your wiki page will present an overview of your chosen book, and will also include your analysis of the book applying the Religious Studies concepts that we have covered in class. This assignment is worth 13% of your overall grade.

Proctored Exams

This course uses Honorlock on the exams. For more information, please refer

to [Honorlock FAQ page](#).

Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage](#) for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](#) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](#) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points of Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Biography	1	10	10	2%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points of Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Journal	7	1	7	7%
Annotations	7	10	70	7%
Blogs	11	10	110	11%
Quizzes	10	100	1000	10%
Exams	3	100	300	36%
Book Proposal	1	10	10	2%
Critical Book Review	1	100	100	12%
Wiki Presentation	1	100	100	13%
Total	42	N/A	1707	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
A	95 - 100
A-	90 – 94.99

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
B+	87 – 89.99
B	83 – 86.99
B-	80 – 82.99
C+	77 – 79.99
C	70 – 76.99
D	60 – 69.99
F	0 – 59.99

Schedule of Topics

Weekly Schedule

Date	Topics
Week 1	Introduction Critical Thinking & Evaluating Evidence
Week 2	Skepticism
Week 3	Shamanism

Date	Topics
Week 4	Case Studies
Week 5	Themes in Healing
Week 6	Plants & Animals
Week 7	Exam 1
Week 8	Healing in the Christian Church
Week 9	North American Faith Healers
Week 10	<i>Espiritismo</i> & Reincarnation
Week 11	PSI
Week 12	Exam 2
Week 13	Modern Medical Culture

Date	Topics
Week 14	Modern Western Medical Subcultures
Week 15	Presentations
Week 16	Exam 3

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.