



REL 2011

Introduction to Religion

Section: U01

In Person

Fall Term 2026

Course Meeting Information

Classes are Scheduled: Mon Wed Fri 10: 00 AM - 10:50 AM



Day:	Mon Wed Fri
Time:	10: 00 AM - 10:50 AM
Location	College of Business Complex 254

Professor Information

Raymond Awadzi

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: rawadzi@fiu.edu

Response Time: Within 12 Hour

Phone: 305-348-7576

Office Hours: Mon Tue Wed 9:00AM - 9:50AM or by Appointment

Office Location: SIPA I 508

Department or Academic Unit: Religious Studies

Additional Notes

Or By Appointment

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

In this introductory religion course, we utilize a thematic approach to explore the major themes of the world's religious traditions, fostering essential **global awareness**. Through the theoretical lenses of scholars such as Rudolf Otto, Paul Tillich, Clifford Geertz, Carl Jung, Mircea Eliade, and Victor Turner, students will navigate the complex landscape of diverse faiths, including Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, African Indigenous Religions, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

To develop **global perspective**, we will examine the meanings, rituals, and relevance of these belief systems, analyzing how they converge and diverge across cultural boundaries. As we evaluate how these religions respond to changing socio-cultural contexts, students will move toward **global engagement**, understanding how faith communities influence and are influenced by the modern world. Through textual analysis and documentary study, this course sharpens the analytical skills necessary to connect local religious expressions to a broader, interconnected global context.

Course Goals

Goals

1. Student will be equipped with requisite knowledge and analytical skills relevant to adequately addressing 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 **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.

Textbook and Course Materials

ANATOMY OF THE SACRED

Subtitle: AN INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: JAMES C. LIVINGSTON

Publisher: PEARSON

Publication Date: 2009

Copyright Date: 1998

ISBN 10: 0-13 600 380-X

ISBN 13: 978-0-13600380-9

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](#).

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- This is a Global Learning designated course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement. As a result, student learning outcomes are centered on three major parameters as follows.
- Global Awareness: Students will be able to assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions. Student will achieve this by identifying different religious traditions and respective cultures that shape individual and societal lives in America and beyond.
- Global Perspective: Students will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives. To achieve this, students will 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. They will also evaluate how these religious claims, beliefs and practices have influence popular cultures that define their own identities and that of others.

- Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world. For this, Students will 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. Students are, however, required to master a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills to access some course resources as well as be able to communicate effectively through canvas.

Students are expected to:

- Review course syllabus and familiarize yourself with course content.
- Review course materials assigned to each topic before coming to class.
See attached pdf syllabus uploaded under Modules 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 is 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 at least 3 days after the deadline.
- Respond to emails within 12 hours;
- Grade assignments on time to allow helpful feedback.

Assignments & Assessments

Students will be assessed in this course using different types tests and assignments. Among these are:

Attendance and Participation in Class

Group Research and Presentation

Midterm Exam or Field Report:

Globalization Reflection Question:

Final Exams:

Grading

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 and Participation	12	10	100	20%
Total	N/A	N/A	500	100%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Group Research and Presentation	1	100	100	15%
Midterm/Field Report	1	100	100	25%
Globalization Question	1	100	100	15%
Final Exams	1	100	100	25%
Total	N/A	N/A	500	100%

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

No additional course material is required.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the **Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Conversations TutorialLinks to an external site. 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 12 hrs**.

Schedule of Topics

See Uploaded Syllabus under Modules for Detailed Weekly Schedule and Topics

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 is a Global Learning designated course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

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 AI Tools and Other Online Resources

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. Students will, however, be guided with regards to the appropriate use of AI resources to address some assignments. Note that 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:

1. [Student Conduct and Honor Code](#)
2. [Digital Millennium Copyright Act Policy](#)

3. [FIU - Copyright Guidance for Students](#)
4. [FIU Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#)