

RLG 5937 U03 19737

Professor Information

Dr. Joseph Holbrook



Email	Canvas Inbox
Office Phone	(305) 348-7283
Office	By appointment
Virtual Office Hours	Wednesdays at noon at Vicki's
Class Twitter Account	@REL_FIU
Class Blog	https://www.facebook.com/drjholbrook/
YouTube channel:	https://www.youtube.com/user/MrJosephholbrook/featured

Getting Started

1. Read the Syllabus
2. Holbrook's video [overview of the syllabus](#).
3. Complete the [Start Here](#) module
4. Review the [Student Resources](#) module
5. Proceed to the first scheduled content in the [Modules](#)

Technical Support

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

Course Description and Purpose

This course offers an overview of Christianity in the Caribbean from the arrival of Spanish Catholics to contemporary Pentecostalism in the twenty-first century. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the region, emphasizing its diversity, complexity, and vital culture.

‘Caribbean,’ a term derived from the indigenous Caribs, has also been called The Antilles and the West Indies. It refers to an extremely diverse region from Miami and the Bahamas southward to Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast and sometimes including the Guyanas and Surinam. The greater Caribbean not only includes Spanish-speaking peoples in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the DR, but also includes English, Dutch and French speaking peoples in the Anglo and Dutch West Indies and the French Antilles, not to mention Patois and Creole speaking countries such as Haiti. The region is a mixed population of Amerindian, African, European, and Asian descent, whose diversity has created a multifaceted society and complex religions with Indigenous, European and Afro-Diaspora elements. This course examines the trajectory of various expressions of Christianity in the Caribbean and their diverse attitudes toward race, African peoples and slaves, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Catholic, Protestant, nonconformist and Pentecostal churches, leaders and movements will be considered in the light of a number of classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives and using methodologies from the academic disciplines of history, sociology, anthropology and phenomenology. Particular emphasis will be given to Christian collaboration with, and resistance to, the African slave trade.

In summary, the course will cover the following topics:

- Christian attitudes toward baptizing and Christianizing newly arriving slaves from Africa.
- The role of the Catholic inquisition, both in exercising social control over Africans as well as offering protection to slaves from excessive brutality from slave owners.
- The extension of religious conflict emanating from Europe into the Caribbean through piracy and non-Spanish Protestant encroachment.
- The distinctive treatment of African slaves by Church of England and the Dutch Reformed Church.
- The arrival of the ‘Nonconformist’ Protestant sects (Quakers, Moravians, Methodists and Baptists) in the Caribbean and their divergent attitudes and missionizing efforts toward people of color.
- The explosive growth of Pentecostalism in the twentieth and early twenty-first century, particularly among Afro-Caribbeans.
- The role of women and Afro-Caribbean leaders in appropriating and spreading Christianity as a means of empowerment for Afro-Caribbean peoples.

Course Objectives

In addition to providing an engaging introduction to the topic, *Christianity in the Caribbean* has four specific objectives.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1 Evaluate, contrast and analyze the religious cultures of the Caribbean.
- CLO2 Evaluate, contrast and analyze the wide variety of Christian denominations, behavior and attitudes towards race and slavery in the Caribbean.
- CLO3 Demonstrate professional or scholarly writing regarding the Caribbean.

- CLO4 Identify, compare and contrast Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal religious expressions in the Caribbean.

Course Modality

This is an in-person, classroom course. Class time will involve presentations, lectures and class discussion. Some of the course work will be conducted online. The syllabus, assignments, and some readings will be available in Canvas.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Proctored Exam Policy

This course does not require proctored exams.

Readings (alphabetical by author):

Kristen Block, , *Ordinary Lives in the Early Caribbean: Religion, Colonial Competition, and the Politics of Profit* University of Georgia Press (2012) ISBN: 9780820338675, 0820338672.

Edmonds and Gonzalez, *Caribbean Religious History*, New York University Press (2010) ISBN:

Bartolome de las Casas, *A short introduction to the destruction of the Indies*.

Katherine Gerbner, *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*. University of Pennsylvania Press (2018) 9780812250015.

Glazier, Stephen D. *Marchin the Pilgrims Home: A Study of the Spiritual Baptists of Trinidad*. Shefeld Publishing Company, 1991. ISBN: 978-1879215054

Marina, Peter. *Chasing Religion in the Caribbean: Ethnographic Journeys from Antigua to Trinidad*. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2016. ISBN: 9781137561008

Luis Martinez-Fernandez, *Protestantism and Political Conflict in the Nineteenth Century Hispanic Caribbean*, Rutgers University Press (2002) ISBN: 9780813529943, 0813529948

Lovelace, Earl. *The Wine of Astonishment*. 1st reprint ed. Hodder Education Group, 2021, c1986. ISBN: 9780435988807

Kirton-Roberts, Winelle J. *Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados, 1834-1914*, 2015. ISBN: 9781504900997

Roman, Reinaldo L. *Governing Spirits: Religion, Miracles, and Spectacles in Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898-1956*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina, 2007.

Shannon, David T. Sr. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An Unsung Hero (The James N. Griffith Endowed Series in Baptist Studies)*. Mercer University Press, 2013.

Sensbach, Jon F. *Rebecca's Revival*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780674043459

Stepic, Alex, Sarah Mahler, and Terry Rey. *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780813544601

There will also be a variety of PDFs which will be supplied to the students.

Course Communication

Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Canvas Inbox

Use the Canvas Inbox if you need to contact me directly. I will do my best to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours (excluding weekends). But please have patience with me: since messages are the central communication process in the classroom, I may occasionally be overwhelmed with messages and it takes me a bit to sort through them.

General Discussion Forum

Post to the general discussion forum in the Discussions course section when you need to ask general questions that other students might be able to answer.

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.

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. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct virtual office hours. Office hours will be on Mondays at 4:00 PM for 30 minutes.

Zoom Test Meeting Room

Use this link to access the Zoom Test Meeting Room. This meeting room is available to test out the software before joining an actual session.

Reference the provided links to access Zoom student tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

- [Download Zoom](#)

- [Login to Zoom through Desktop Application](#)
- [Enable and Test Audio & Webcam](#)
- [Schedule a meeting](#) or [Join a Zoom meeting](#)
- [Invite others to join meeting](#)
- [Chat \(Professors\) - Students look at attendees section for instructions](#)
- [Share My Screen](#)
- [Record a Local Zoom meeting](#)
- [Host Control in Meetings](#)
- [Getting Started with iOS](#)
- [Getting Started with Android](#)

Assignments

This is a writing-intensive course. Some of your participation comes in the form of written reflections on what you have read or otherwise engaged. Several types of assignments:

- Reading Reviews (Forum Discussion format)
- Class Participation and discussion.
- Research assignments (topic selection, bibliography and First paragraph and outline)
- Final Research Project (in two parts).

Reading Reviews (Forum Discussions)

At least twelve or thirteen times during the semester, you will be required to participate in online discussions with your peers to reflect on films or primary source readings related to the material. The lowest two discussion grades will be dropped.

General Guidelines

- *Initial Response:* These should be around 300-350 words in length (about 3 paragraphs).
- *Responses to Peers' Posts (3):* Respond to the posts of at least three of your fellow classmates. Each response should be between 50-100 words in length (1 paragraph).

Grading Criteria

The discussions will be graded 20% summary, 20% personal and critical reaction, 20% on how it relates to the course themes, and 20% on length, content, grammar and punctuation.

Another 20% of the grade will be for at least three REPLIES of a minimum of 50 words or 3 complete sentences to other students. At the end of the semester, the two lowest discussion grades will be dropped.

Reading Reviews (Discussion forum) rubric:

ONLINE FORUM DISCUSSIONS RUBRIC (RLG 5937)

Required elements	Poor (1-5)	Fair (6-8)	Good (8-9)	Excellent (10)	Total
(20%) Brief Summary	Missing forum post or is less than 50 % of the minimum word count.	Too short, fails to meet the minimum word count. Factual errors.	Factually accurate but too long and wordy. Shows that the student read or viewed the source.	Factually accurate, concise and brief. Shows that the student read or viewed the source.	
(20%) Significance and relevance and reaction.	No mention of significance or relevance	Significance mentioned in passing but minimally.	Significance mentioned but could be amplified.	Good clear explanation of importance of topic.	
(20%) Mechanics – grammar, word choice, spelling, sentence structure	Unacceptable.	Many errors of grammar, spelling, word choices, vague or confusing sentences	Some few errors of grammar, spelling, word choices, poor sentence structure.	No errors of grammar, spelling, word choices or sentence structure.	
(20%) Replies.	No reaction is mentioned	Only one reply.	Only two short replies.	3 substantial replies of more than 50 words.	
Total score					

Make-ups/Extra Credit

Although only twelve discussions are required for grading, there will be several additional films and/or primary source discussions suggested to serve as “**make-ups**” or **extra credit** (late submissions of up to 2 days are allowed for the Reading Reviews (forum discussions). After that, no make-ups are allowed). Only 3 extra credit points are allowed on the final grade. **Absolutely no extra credits or make-ups will be accepted after the last day of class.**

Participation

Participation (100 points or 10 percent of the overall final grade): Attendance will be taken for each class. Arriving on time and staying for the whole class earns 7 points. Participating verbally in class discussions gives 3 more points for a potential 10 points per class session. Office hours will be held on Mondays at 2:00 PM. Additional participation points may be awarded for meeting with the professor during office hours and giving an oral presentation of your research at the end of the semester.

Quizzes and exams. There will be no quizzes or exams for this course.

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](#).

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

Third-Party Tools Used

- Turnitin
- Zoom

Lateness Policy

I do not have the time to grade late work or assign alternative assignments. So do not turn things in late. Please turn everything in 24 hours ahead of time in case your computer crashes or the entire neighborhood loses electricity.

Difficulties can arise during a semester: a car accident, a death in the family, relational stress, sickness, or simply a case of summertime college burnout. Sooner or later, these things inevitably happen to everyone. When you have a problem, the best thing is for you to do is message me right away. I will work with you to the best of my ability. If you are proactive (e.g., let me know what is going on before a deadline), I can help you strategize so that you can still make the deadlines as best as possible, instead of missing them completely.

Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas,

expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

Statement of Understanding between Professor and Student

Every student must respect the right of all to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. As a student taking this class:

- I will not represent someone else's work as my own
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. **Offenders will receive a grade of F (0 points) for the plagiarized assignment**, and possibly for the course. Please be aware: Previously submitted papers are not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are retaking this class. You may not “reuse” papers.

Course Grade Distribution

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points	Total Weight
Class attendance and discussions	45	100	10%
Reading Reviews	10	400	40%
Topic Selection/Research Question	1	100	10%
Annotated Bibliography	1	100	10%
First Paragraph & Outline.	1	100	10%
First draft of Research Project	1	100	10%
Final draft of Research Project	1	100	10%
Total	30	1000	100%

FIU Grading Scale

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

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Sensbach, Jon F. *Rebecca's Revival*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780674043459

SPRING BREAK

Shannon, David T. Sr. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An Unsung Hero (The James N. Griffith Endowed Series in Baptist Studies)*. Mercer University Press, 2013.

Victor. Cadette, *Slaves, Soldiers and Saints: Two Hundred Years of Baptist Witness in Trinidad: 1816–2016* (Port of Spain, Trinidad, 2016) ##.

Luis Martinez-Fernandez, *Protestantism and Political Conflict in the Nineteenth Century Hispanic Caribbean*, Rutgers University Press (2002) ISBN: 9780813529943, 0813529948

Kirton-Roberts, Winelle J. *Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados, 1834-1914*, 2015. ISBN: 9781504900997

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Lovelace, Earl. *The Wine of Astonishment*. 1st reprint ed. Hodder Education Group, 2021, c1986.
ISBN: 9780435988807

Marina, Peter. *Chasing Religion in the Caribbean: Ethnographic Journeys from Antigua to Trinidad*.
Palgrave Macmillan US, 2016. ISBN: 9781137561008

Stepic, Alex, Sarah Mahler, and Terry Rey. *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City*. New
Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780813544601

Weekly Calendar: Christianity and the Caribbean

Weeks	Topics	Reading
Week 1 Jan. 10	Introduction: Overview of Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Gonzalez ch 1 & 2
Week 2 Jan. 18	Arrival of the Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Gonzalez ch 2.1 • Las Casas
Week 3 Jan. 24	Early Colonial Catholicism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Gonzalez, ch.3.
Week 4 Jan. 31	Spanish Catholicism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerbner, ch1 from p.18 • Kristen Bloch, PART 1
Week 5 Feb. 7	Catholics or Protestants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gonzalez, ch.4 • Gerbner, ch2 • Kristen Bloch, PART 2
Week 6 Feb. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Design and Jamaica • Protestant Supremacy • Anglicans and slaveholding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen Bloch, PART 3, • Rebecca's Revival.
Week 7 Feb. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quakers and slavery in-Barbados • Rebecca: Moravians St. Thomas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen Bloch, Part IV • Rebecca's Revival >99
Week 8 Feb. 28	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldier Baptists in Trinidad, Afro-Baptists in Jamaica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldier, Slaves and Saints • George Liele and the Ethiopian Baptists of Jamaica 1783 -1865

Weeks	Topics	Reading
Week 10 March 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelicals in Cuba, PR and Antigua and Barbados. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirton-Roberts, Winelle J. • Luis Fernandez-Martinez
Week 11 March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More about Trinidad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Glazier • Earl Lovelace
Week 12 March 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miracles and Healers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinaldo L. Roman, <i>Governing Spirits</i>.
Week 13 April 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean Pentecostalism: Antigua and Trinidad / St. Lucia, Barbados, and Dominica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Marina
Week 14 April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean Pentecostalism: St. Kitts and Montserrat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Marina
Week 15 April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith & Social Capital in Miami 	Stepic, Mahler, Rey. <i>Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City</i>
Week 16 April 26	Caribbean Christianity goes global	Final Project