REL 2300

Religions of the World

Section: B52

In Person

Spring Term 2027

Course Meeting Information

Class Meeting Details	
Day:	Thursdays
Time:	6:30PM - 9:05PM
Location:	Biscayne Bay Campus Academic Center One Room 263

Thursdays, 6:30PM- 9:05PM at Academic Center One, Room 263

Professor Information

Sharma Danesh Dammar

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: sdammar@fiu.edu

Phone: 305-348-2186

Office Hours: By appointment on Thursdays, 9:05p.m. to 9:40p.m.

Office Location: AC1 300

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Religious Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course develops global awareness by conducting a comparative survey of twelve major religious traditions: Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, African

Indigenous Religion, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. We will move beyond simple identification of teachings to cultivate a global perspective, locating the emergence of these traditions within their distinct historical and socio-cultural contexts.

Through the analysis of scholarly articles, sacred texts, and documentaries, students will examine how these religions have transitioned from their origins to contemporary times. The course emphasizes global engagement by investigating the dialogues and complexities resulting from encounters between traditions at local, national, and international levels. Ultimately, students will use these religious frameworks as lenses to analyze a complex interconnected world, transitioning from passive observers to informed actors on the global stage. This is a Global Learning designated course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

Textbook and Course Materials

Religions of the World

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Hopfe, Lewis M., Woodward, Mark R., Henrickson, Brett

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 2016

Copyright Date: 2016

ISBN 10: 9780133793826

ISBN 13: 0133793826

Notes: An eTextbook/digital version or a hard copy of Religions of the World, the 13th edition is acceptable to satisfy the book requirement for this course, Rel 2300. The ISBN for the eTextbook/digital version version is 9780133794229.

Chapters/Pages: 13/296

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: Not 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 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.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Global Awareness: Students will be able to situate religions within contemporary and historical perspective.
- Global Perspective: Students will be able to analyze issues in the study of religion using multiple approaches (e.g., historical, literary, sociological).
- Global Engagement: Students will be able to engage critically the issue of religious diversity in national and international 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 24-48 hours.
- respond to discussion postings within at least 3 days of the deadline.
- respond to emails within 12-48 hours;
- grade assignments within on time to allow helpful feedback

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an expectation of this course and attendance will be tracked. Students may be excused at the professor's discretion for legitimate reasons to be absent, such as verified illnesses, emergencies, etc. Reasonable

verification as to the nature of the absence must be provided to a suitable department within FIU. Being absent because of work, vacations, or sport activities will not be excused. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed notes and assignments. Communicating with your professor before you are absent is a key to your success.

Late Work Policy

For this course, unless otherwise noted by the instructor, submitting work late will be permitted only under qualifying circumstances. Computer and internet connectivity problems, scheduling appointments, and vacations are not valid reasons for late work. There are no make-ups if you decide not to complete an exam/ assignment on time, unless there is/was a true emergency that restricted you from taking it. Students will only be able to take a make-up exam due to legitimate reasons. In order to take a make-up exam, students will need to provide reasonable verification to a suitable department within FIU as to why he/she missed the scheduled exam.

Changes to the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the class syllabus. The syllabus is a guide, and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the class. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. In the

event changes become necessary, students will be notified through class email, discussions, and/or the announcements tool. Changes will be announced in a fair and timely fashion. Assignments, homework, and exams will be adapted for the benefit of the student; students will always know of any changes ahead of time. Check the "Announcements" section of your Canvas account daily for possible course updates.

Assignments & Assessments

1. Exam #1
2. Exam #2
3. Comparative Reaction Paper
4. Religious Visitation Paper

Assessments

There will be **two exams, a religious visitation paper, and a comparative reaction paper on Native American Religions, African Religions, Shinto, and Baha'i** where each is worth ¼ of your final grade. Examinations will entail true and false, fill in the blanks, and multiple-choice questions. Exams will be available via Canvas during a class date and time slot. The religious visitation paper and the comparative reaction paper are mandatory as this course has a writing requirement. Failure to submit one and/or both writing assignments on time, via Canvas, will result in zero points for the papers. Extra credit is optional and can only elevate the final grade by 5 points. If needed/requested, an extra assignment will be issued for

optional extra credit. It is your duty to attend class meetings and complete all graded items before this course is over.

Exams (Non-Cumulative & Remote)	
Exam	**Subject on Exam**
Exam One via Canvas (middle of the semester)	The Study of Religions Hinduism Buddhism Jainism Sikhism
Exam Two via Canvas (end of the semester)	Daoism Confucianism Judaism Christianity Islam

Examination Policy

Exams will cover material from lectures as well as from the assigned textbook. In order to obtain a good grade on exams students need to read and understand material from the chapters of the assigned textbook. It is the student's duty to contact the professor if he/she needs to make up an exam. Make-up exams will only be approved by the discretion of the professor. Students will only be able to take a make-up exam due to legitimate reasons. In order to take a make-up exam, students will need to provide reasonable verification to a suitable department within FIU as to why he/she missed the scheduled exam. There are no make-ups if you miss Exam #2 unless there is/was a true emergency that restricted you from taking it.

Grading

Course Grading Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Exam #1	1	110	110	25%
Exam #2	1	100	100	25%
Total	N/A	N/A	400	100%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Comparative Reaction Paper	1	100	100	25%
Religious Visitation Paper	1	100	100	25%
Total	N/A	N/A	400	100%

Grading Scale

A = 95 – 100

A- = 90 – 94.99

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 = below 60

Proctored Exams

Exams (Non-Cumulative & Remote)	
Exam	**Subject on Exam**
Exam One via Canvas (middle of the semester)	The Study of Religions Hinduism Buddhism Jainism Sikhism

Exams (Non-Cumulative & Remote)	
Exam Two via Canvas (end of the semester)	Daoism Confucianism Judaism Christianity Islam

Schedule of Topics

Schedule of Lecture Order with Discussions

Semester Timing	Lecture Order (first to last)
(middle of the semester)	The Study of Religions Hinduism Buddhism Jainism Sikhism

Semester Timing	Lecture Order (first to last)
(end of the semester)	Daoism Confucianism Judaism Christianity Islam

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the Conversations Tutorial or Canvas 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 48 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
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

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.

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

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.