REL 4910

Independent Research

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Spring Term 2027

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Joseph Holbrook

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: jholbroo@fiu.edu

Response Time: 2 days

Phone: (305) 348-2186

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: There is no physical office during the summer

but I will be available via zoom.

Website: YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@MrJosephholbrook

Department or Academic Unit: Religious Studies

Additional Notes

Instagram: @josenmiami

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

REL4910 is an indepdent research paper intended to result in a quality essay on a relevant topic. This is intended as the capstone course for students enrolled in the Christian studies certificate.

Textbook and Course Materials

Introducing Research Methodology

Subtitle: A Beginners Guide to Doing a Research Project

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: Uwe Flick

Publisher: Sage

Publication Date: 2015

Copyright Date: 2015

ISBN 10: 9386062909

ISBN 13: 9789386062901

Notes: the book is helpful but optional

Chapters/Pages: 295

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

- Develop a thesis and research question on a topic of interest
- Search for peer reviewed sources pertinent to the topic.
- Develop a properly formatted bibliography

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

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **5 times** per week;
- respond to **emails** within **24 hours**;
- grade assignments and/or provide feedback within **2 days** of the assignment deadline.

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

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.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Available dates (unlimited or for a specific time)
- Criteria for evaluating the originality and quality of students' comments and grade credit expected (Rubric is highly encouraged)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades.

Assignments

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Provide due dates and late assignment policies
- Define if it is an individual or group assignment (groups: Let the students know how the groups will be formed)
- Specify and describe how to submit assignments
- State the criteria for evaluation (Rubric or list of criteria)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

This is an online independent study to do a final research project. There are no quizzes or exams.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Total	**10**	**—**	**1,000**	**100%**

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Weekly Reports	10	20	200	20%
Research Items	6	100	400	40%
Assignments	3	0	0	0%
Final Project	2	100	400	40%
Total	**10**	**—**	**1,000**	**100%**

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
A	95 to 100
A-	90 to 94.99
B+	87 to 89.99
B	83 to 86.99
B-	80 to 82.99
C+	77 to 79.99

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
C	70 to 76.99
D	60 to 69.99
F	0 to 59.99

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

12 Week Research Schedule:

Week 1 – Chose a topic

Week 2 – Second weekly report

Week 3 – Submit a research question.

Week 4 – Begin searching for sources.

Week 5 - Weekly report 5.

Week 6 – Submit annotated bibliography.

Week 7 - Weekly report 7.

Week 8 – Submit a first paragraph and an outline.

Week 9 - Weekly report 9.

Week 10 – Submit the first draft of your final project.

Week 11 – Make corrections to the final project and continue writing.

Week 12 –Oral presentation, final details and the final research project.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within **2 days.**

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

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.

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.

Syllabus Desclaimer

This syllabus may be subject to change without prior notice. The latest changes will be announced via Canvas announcement.