

**FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**REL 2011 B51**  
**Fall-2014 Religion: Interpretation and Analysis**

**FALL 2014 - Instructor Gregory Pope**  
**Tu-Thrs 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM**  
**Email: [GPope65310@aol.com](mailto:GPope65310@aol.com)**

**Texts:**

*Ishmael*, Daniel Quinn, ISBN 0-553-37540-7

*White Women's Christ, Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*, Jacquelyn Grant, ISBN 1-55540-303-4

*Spirituality and World Religions*, George E. Saint-Laurent, ISBN 0-7674-1655-4

*Videos: The Great Religions of the World* (A supplement to the Saint-Laurent text.)

**Course Objectives:**

- \*\*Students will be able to identify the relationship between religion and culture.
- \*\*Students will be able to identify the function of religion in different socio-political contexts.
- \*\*Students will be able to comprehend the dangers inherited in an “absolute” theology.
- \*\*Students will be able to construct a competent argument for choosing a global perspective of religion as the choice for fully understanding the sacred.
- \*\*Students will be able to understand their embedded religious views over against other world religions.
- \*\*Students will be able to identify the transformative nature of religions under the impact of a sacred world view.

**Course Regulations and Procedures:**

- 1) If late arrivals become disruptive or frequent, the professor reserves the right to turn away those who arrive more than fifteen minutes late.
- 2) No extra work will be accepted to compensate for low grades in the regular course work, or for missed work.

3) Late papers will be debited one letter grade for each class day late.

4) The grading scale is:

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 – 92	xxxxxxxxxxxx
B+ = 87 – 89	B = 84 – 86	B- = 80 – 83
C+ = 77 – 79	C = 74 – 76	C- = 70 – 73
D+ = 67 – 69	D = 64 – 66	D- = 60 – 63
F = 0 - 59		

5) Assignments graded:

- 40% .... Site Visit Presentation (Oral and Written - 20% each)
- 20% .... Research Project
- 20%.....Essay
- 15%.....Final Exam
- 5% ...Class Participation and Attendance

**Assignments:**

There will be a site visit presentation, a research project, an essay, and a final exam... **All papers should be double space with 12' font.**

**Site Visit Presentation:**

**Site Visit (Oral Presentation):** Students will be divided into groups. Each group will visit a religious site that will be assigned to them by the Instructor, and observe a ritual and then give an oral presentation on that ritual in the class.

**Site Visit (Written Presentation):** Students will research the ritual that they observed during their site visit and write a 7-9 page scholarly paper about that ritual. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Research Project:** Student will choose a religion that is not association with their own faith, and write a 7-9 page research paper on the religion and how the religion is used to combat (social, cultural, political, historical) oppression. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Essay:** Student will choose any topic that is associated with the oppression/liberation of Women (abortion, fair-wages, equal treatment) and

write a 7-9 page critical paper highlighting how religion may contribute to this treatment. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Final Exam** will be on the material covered in class: lectures and readings. The exam will be definition of terms, fill in the blanks and essays.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

**Plagiarism** is literary theft and is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgements, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker. This includes material found on the Internet. Plagiarism includes the unauthorized copying of software and the violation of copyright laws. Plagiarism will result in an F on the paper and likely in the class as well. It is also grounds for expulsion from the university.

**Cheating** is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Cheating includes falsifying reports and documents. Cheating on exams will result in zero awarded to both papers (so keep your paper covered).

**Attendance:**

Class attendance and class participation are ways to receive extra credit. Also, pop quizzes will be given during random class periods; as well as, some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are not in the textbooks. In addition, your grade will be lowered a letter if you have more than three unexcused absences.

**Incomplete Grades:**

An Incomplete grade is to be given only to the student who has been regularly attending class and has completed most of the class work, but has a serious emergency at the end of the term.

**Internet:**

You are encouraged to use the Internet- although, you must be careful and thoughtful when interpreting the data found on the web sites. Remember, the sites with the word “gov/ edu/ org” or usually good sites. This information will be covered further during visit to the library.

**FIU RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

August	26	Introduction
	28	Ishmael, Section 1 & 2 (Lecture)
September	02	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	04	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
	09	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	11	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
	16	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
	18	Library ( <b>Site Visits should be completed</b> )
	23	Lecture on writing a Research Papers
	25	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Lecture)
	30	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Class Discussion)
October	02	Video
	07	Jewish Spirituality ( <b>Group Oral Presentation</b> )
	09	Video
	14	Islamic Spirituality ( <b>Group Oral Presentation</b> )
	16	Video
	21	Hindu, Spirituality ( <b>Group Oral Presentation</b> )
	23	Video
	28	Buddhist Spirituality ( <b>Group Oral Presentation</b> )
30	Video ( <b>Written Presentation Due</b> )	
November	04	Video
	06	Grant, White Women's Christ
	13	Grant, White Women's Christ
	18	Grant, White Women's Christ ( <b>Research Paper Due</b> )
	20	Grant, White Women's Christ
	25	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
December	02	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
	04	Grant, Black Women's Jesus ( <b>Essay Due</b> )
	09	Final Exam 9:45 – 11:45 AM