

Fall 2014 - REL 2011 U09 - RELIGION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Class meets on M-W-F in Chem. & Physics 111 at 4 pm.

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor: Joseph Holbrook

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of Religion: Analysis and Interpretation will use text readings, in-class participation and multimedia to explore basic concepts in the study of religion. This format's scope includes the exploration of concepts such as deity, cosmology and myth, ritual, scripture, ethics and salvation/liberation. The student will be introduced to each concept through the textbook, class lectures, student presentations, videos, Internet sources and discussions. Throughout the course the student will also be exposed to specific rituals, myths, doctrines, ethics and symbols from various different world religions and cultures. Students will be tested on this material in a midterm exam and a final exam. Two essays will develop the student's critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For the first essay, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of his/her own tradition. For the second essay, the student will read and review an article on religion and globalization. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement.

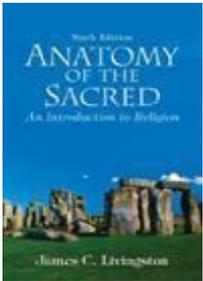
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions.

- Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.
- Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols.
- Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
- Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
- Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
- Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community.

TEXTBOOK



Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion

James C. Livingston

Prentice Hall, 6th Edition

ISBN 10: 013600380X

ISBN 13: 9780136003809

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This class meets three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:00 to 4:50 pm. Since the class is only fifty minutes long, students are expected to arrive promptly and stay for the full duration of the class. Students should be prepared to participate in class by reading the assignments and by developing discussion or presentation material, as requested. Students are responsible for carefully reading the syllabus and calendar, meeting deadlines as posted, and submitting mature, thoughtful work. Some of this material may be new, personal or controversial, so please maintain an open-minded and considerate attitude, allowing others time to reflect and communicate.

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place in class, in Blackboard, and through email. The best method to communicate with your instructor privately is through email. Appointments can be made on request. Please contact the instructor immediately if a serious situation arises which will impact student performance.

GORDON RULE REQUIREMENT

As this is a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write a minimum of two major assignments, with the first essay submitted in both a first and a second draft. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be submitted as a draft for 10% of the final grade and a revised final version will be resubmitted for an additional 10% of the final grade. Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) will be submitted in a final version for 10% of the final grade. Each paper will be 750-1000 words and will be submitted through Turnitin. All source material must be cited correctly using MLA Style and **long quotes should be avoided**. Please be aware that papers with an originality score of over 35% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points).

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a Global Learning course, students will be expected to meet the following objectives through text readings, assignments, and class discussions:

1. Students will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.
2. Students will be able to assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions
3. Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.

DISCUSSION AND PRIVACY

Keep in mind that in-class and online discussions are public. Be cautious with your words and your sources. Respect others' privacy and do not share class conversations with others outside of class. Recognize that fellow students may not wish to give personal opinions about some topics.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

The Midterm Exam (Exam 1) and Final Exam (Exam 2) are in-class, time-restricted examinations. Each exam has 50 multiple-choice or true/false questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points and 15% of the final grade. Students will need a green Scantron and a pencil for each exam.

ESSAYS

Essay 1 (Site Visit Draft & Final Copy) and Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) will be turned into Turnitin.com via Assignments in Blackboard. It is not necessary to create a separate Turnitin account. Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your Turnitin.com electronic receipt (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

Essay 1 (Site Visit) - The student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be handed in twice via Turnitin: First as a draft worth 10% of the final grade, and later as a revised final paper worth 10% of the final grade. The Site Visit should be **750-1000 (3 to 4 pages double-spaced)** words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) - The student will analyze the article 'The Case for Contamination' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis is worth 10% of the final grade. The Appiah Analysis should be **750-1000 (3 to 4 pages double-spaced)** words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give one **group presentation** (5 minutes per person in the group) on a topic related to course readings. Guidelines will be given in class for the presentation on some portion of the course text. Additional information might include a demonstration, an explanation of a term/idea, a brief travel description/slide show, or a book review. Be creative and informative! The presentation will be worth 10% of the final grade. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation slots. If a student cannot attend on the day of the presentation, they may arrange with another student to switch slots, but please inform the instructor by email of changes to the schedule. If a student misses his/her presentation slot and there is no other available slot, the student will receive 0 points for the presentation.

EXTRA CREDIT

Review a movie and write a five- paragraph reaction paper describing the role that religion plays in the story or event. Focus on religious symbols, rituals, myths or the ways in which religious beliefs or practices influence the plot or meaning of the movie. Do not tell the whole story of the movie, but just enough so that your points are clear. The movie selection must be approved by the instructor. The extra credit paper is worth 1 percent of the final grade. All extra credit reports are due no later than November 12. The maximum amount of extra credits that are possible are 3 points on the final grade or ¼ of a grade level. Extra credits will also be given for students who follow the class twitter account, [@REL_FIU](#) or who make at least 10 comments (three complete sentences each) on the class religious studies blog:

<http://josenmiamireligion.blogspot.com/>

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers

Late papers will not be accepted. If a student has an approved, documented excuse, late papers may be accepted with a penalty of 10 percent for the first week, after which papers will not be accepted for any reason or they will be discounted by 50 percent at the professor's discretion.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1. A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
2. Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
3. Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. 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.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and Participation together are worth 10% of the final grade. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. Students with ten or more absences will receive 0 points for attendance. Please inform the instructor immediately if a situation develops which will impact your performance or attendance. Participation includes reading for class, contributing to discussions and being attentive to lectures and student presentations. Please refrain from texting and emailing in class.

Arriving late, leaving early or stepping out of the class for long periods of time may incur an absence penalty. Students will be expected to sign in on the class roster which will serve as documentation of their attendance.

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay 1 - Site Visit Draft (due Sept. 15)	100	10%
Exam 1 – MIDTERM (on Oct. 6)	100	15%
Essay 1 - Site Visit Final (due Oct. 22)	100	10%
Essay 2 - Appiah Analysis (due Nov. 24)	100	10%
Exam 2 – FINAL (TBA, Dec. 8 - 12)	100	15%
13 Weekly Chapter Quizzes	130	10%
Group Presentation	50	10%
On-line discussions of films	40	10%
Participation & Attendance	50	10%
Total	770	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	93 - 100	B-	80 – 82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 – 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 – 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 – 72	F	< 60

COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE	TOPIC	TEXT
Week 1 Aug. 25-29	<p>Section I - The Study of Religion Topic: What is religion?</p> <p>Aug. 25: Introductions, syllabus review, class plan Aug. 25: Readings lecture, organize presentations Aug. 29: Lecture, discussion. <i>Start your Site Visit research early!</i></p>	Chapter 1 p.1-14
Week 2 Sept. 3-5	<p>Section I - The Study of Religion Topic: Ways of studying religion Sept. 1: LABOR DAY – no class Tuesday Sept. 2: Film: 7:30 pm <i>“The Mission” DM 370</i> Sept. 3: Readings, Lecture discussion Sept. 5: Lecture, discussion,</p>	Chapter 2 p.15-34
Week 3 Sept. 8-12	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression Topic: The sacred and the holy <i>Film discussion forum of “The Mission” due Sunday night, Sept. 7</i> Sept. 8: Readings lecture, discussion Sept.10: Readings lecture, discussion, Sept.12: Student presentations (2), news discussion</p>	Chapter 3 p.35-52
Week 4 Sept. 15-19	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression Topic: Sacred symbol, myth and doctrine</p> <p>Sept.15: Readings lecture, discussion Sept.17: Readings lecture, discussion, Sept.19: Student presentations (2), news discussion</p> <p><i>Essay 1 (Site Visit Draft) due by 11:59 pm on Sept. 15, via Blackboard Assignments</i></p>	Chapter 4 p.53-73
Week 5 Sept. 22-26	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression Topic: Sacred ritual</p> <p>Sept. 22: Readings lecture, student presentation Sept. 24: Readings discussion, Sept. 26: Student presentations (2), news discussion</p>	Chapter 5 p.74-95
Week 6 Sept. 29-Oct.3	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression Topic: Sacred scripture</p> <p>Sept. 29: Readings lecture, student presentation Oct. 1: Readings discussion, <i>Essay 1 (Site Visit Final) due by 11:59 pm on via Blackboard</i> Oct. 3: Presentations; at 8:00 PM, Film: <i>Luther</i></p>	Chapter 6 p.96-123

<p>Week 7 Oct. 6-10</p>	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression Topic: Society and the sacred <i>Film discussion forum of "LUTHER" due Sunday, Oct. 5</i></p> <p>Oct. 6: Readings lecture, student presentation Oct. 8: Readings discussion, <i>Assignments</i> Oct. 10: Midterm Exam Review materials from Week 1-7.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 p.124-150</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct. 13-17</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Deity, or concepts of the divine/ultimate reality</p> <p>Oct. 13: Readings lecture, Oct. 15: Readings lecture, student presentation Oct. 17: Student presentations , news discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 8 p.151-182</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct. 20-24</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Cosmogony</p> <p>Oct. 20: Readings lecture, student presentation Oct. 22: Discussion:, 7:30 pm, Oct. 24: Student presentations, discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 9 p.183-210</p>
<p>Week 10 Oct. 27-31</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: The human problem</p> <p>Oct. 27: Readings lecture, student presentation Tuesday, Oct. 28, Film: <i>GANDHI</i> Oct. 29: Readings discussion, student presentation Oct. 31: Student presentations, news discussion</p>	<p>Chapter10 p. 211-234</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov. 3-7</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Encountering evil <i>Film discussion forum of "GANDHI" due Sunday night, Nov. 2</i> Nov. 3: Readings lecture, student presentation Nov. 5: Readings discussion, Nov. 7: Student presentations, discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 11 p.235-258</p>
<p>Week 12 Nov 10-14</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Ethics</p> <p>Nov. 10: Readings lecture Nov. 12: student presentation Nov. 14: Readings discussion, student presentation</p>	<p>Chapter 12 p. 259-286</p>
<p>Week 13 Nov. 17-21</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Salvation and liberation</p> <p>Nov. 17: Readings lecture, student presentation Nov. 19: Readings, discussion, (Extra Credits due). Nov. 21: Student presentations Film: <i>Malcolm X</i></p>	<p>Chapter 13 p. 287-338</p>

	<i>Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) due by 11:59 pm on Nov 22, via Blackboard Assignments</i>	
Week 14 Nov. 24-26	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview Topic: Salvation and liberation Part 2</p> <p>Nov. 24: Readings lecture, student presentation Nov. 26: Readings discussion, student presentation Nov. 28: No class, Thanksgiving weekend.</p> <p><i>Film discussion forum of "MALCOLM X" due Sunday night, Nov. 30</i></p>	Chapter 14 p.338-398
Week 15 Dec. 1-5	<p>Section IV. The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity Topic: Secularization and Pluralism</p> <p>Dec. 1: Readings lecture, student presentation Dec. 3: Readings discussion, and Review Dec. 5: REVIEW</p>	Chapter 15 p.338-398
FINAL EXAMS Dec. 7-12	<p>Professor office hours, M-W-F from 12 to 1pm in GL 150. Final Exam: TBA Covers week 8-15.</p>	