

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Religious Studies
REL 3308 Studies in World Religions
Fall 2014

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Alvarez
Office Hours: TR, 11:00-Noon
DM 304A

Class Hours: TR, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
Class Room: SIPA AUDITORIUM 125
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the origins, teachings, and practices of selected world religions. The specific religions selected for examination may vary from semester to semester.

TEXTBOOKS

Lewis M. Hopfe, Mark R. Woodward, *Religions of the World*, 11th or 12th edition, 2012 [pagination in the syllabus follows the 12th edition exclusively].

Franklin Edgerton, *Bhagavad Gita*, Harvard University Press, 1972.

Lao Tzu, selections from the Tao te Ching (available on Blackboard).

FOR GLOBALIZATION QUESTION: Selections from Wilfred Cantwell Smith, *The Meaning and End of Religion*; and Mortimer Adler, *Truth in Religion* (available on Blackboard).

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the student with the "raw materials" for the study of religion by immersing the student in the beliefs, doctrines, rituals, symbols, and (select) scriptures of some of the major world religions.
2. To facilitate the informed cross-cultural comparison and evaluation of ways of being religious by focused study of select world religions.
3. To widen, enhance and enrich the intellectual and spiritual horizons of the student by exposure to the spiritual beauty, vitality, coherence, plausibility and richness of non-Christian, non-Western approaches to the transcendent or ultimate reality.
4. To challenge the student to enter sympathetically into the worldview of the religious traditions selected for study.
5. To provide the context for dialogue and discussion that will enable the student to live in an enormously complex, interdependent, and religiously plural world with patience, understanding, and appreciation for that which is different, and in some cases irreconcilably different, from his or her own "worldview."

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

1. **Mid-Term Exam**, on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism: 50 questions (25 % of final grade)
2. **Final Exam**, on Judaism, Christianity and Islam: 100 questions (40% of final grade).
3. **Quiz #1**: 20 questions, on Hinduism and Buddhism (10% of final grade).
4. **Quiz #2**: 20 questions, on Chinese Religions: Taoism and Confucianism (10% of final grade).
5. **Site Visit** (4-5 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) (10% of final grade). Site Visit Format and Short Directory of Religious Sites of South Florida given at the end of the syllabus. Site visit reports

will be staggered throughout the semester if necessary based on alphabetical order (last name of students). That is, the due dates will not be the same for all students, with some site visits due the 5th week, others the 10th week, to make it easy for the teaching assistants to grade reports in a timely manner.

6. Globalization Question (essay format): students will write an essay (minimum of 2 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) on the question provided by the instructor (5% of final grade).

EXTRA CREDIT: 1 pt. for every event attended (with verification). Only special lectures offered by the Middle East Studies Center, Judaic Studies, Institute of Asian Studies, and Center for Spirituality count toward extra-credit opportunities and will be announced in class and via email to all students.

THE EXAMS AND QUIZZES ARE OBJECTIVE (true/false, multiple choice), and the questions will be drawn from the required reading, lectures, and videos. Given this fact, it is important that the student make an effort to attend every class. All exams and quizzes are online.

The midterm exam will consist of fifty (50) questions; the final exam will consist of one hundred (100) questions. The quizzes will be twenty (20) questions each. The final exam of one hundred (100) questions will not be comprehensive; it will cover only the material after the midterm exam (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam).

ALL WORK WILL BE DONE ONLINE AND SUBMITTED TO BLACKBOARD.

ALL EXAMS, QUIZZES, SITE VISIT REPORT, and the GLOBALIZATION ESSAY (that is, all class assignments) will be done ONLINE THROUGH MOODLE.

A	94-100	C	73-77
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	0-59

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Textbooks, Overview of course

Hinduism: Pre-Classical or Vedic Religion

Required Reading: Hopfe, *et al.*, chapter 4, 72-82..

Week 2

Film: Pre-Aryan Civilization of the Indus Valley

Hinduism: The Upanishads

Required Reading: Hopfe, 82-89; Edgerton, 3-45.

Week 3

Hinduism: Bhagavad Gita: Karma, Jñana, Bhakti
Required Reading: Hopfe, 89-107; *Bhagavad Gita*, 46-91.

Film: "330 Million Gods"

Week 4

Theravada Buddhism: The Four Noble Truths, Nirvana, Anatta
Required Reading: Hopfe, 128-138; 153-154 ("The Noble Eight-Fold Path").
Recommended: "Siddhartha," film based on the novel by Herman Hesse.

Film: "Footprint of the Buddha"

Week 5

Quiz #1, on Hinduism and Theravada Buddhism due

Mahayana Buddhism

Required Reading: Hopfe, 138-150; 154-155 ("The Infinite Compassion of the *Bodhisattva*").

Recommended: Film: "Little Buddha."

Film: "Land of the Disappearing Buddha" (on Pure Land and Zen Buddhism).

Week 6

Jainism

Required Reading: Hopfe, 116-124.

Sikhism

Required Reading: Hopfe, 156-165.

Week 7

Mid-Term Exam (on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism) due

Chinese Religions: Taoism

Required Reading: Hopfe, 172-185; 197-199 (selection from the *Tao Te Ching*).

Chinese Religions: Confucianism

Required Reading: Hopfe, 186-196; 193-200 (selection from the *Analects of Confucius*).

Week 8

Film: Chinese Religions

Israel: The pre-history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Required Reading: Hopfe, 242-251; 272-274 (Deuteronomy 5, 6: "The 10 Commandments").

Week 9

Quiz #2, on Chinese Religions due

Prophecy in tension with Kingship and Priesthood

Required Reading: Hoseah, Amos, Micah (very short books of the Hebrew Bible); Jeremiah 7, Deuteronomy 20, Isaiah, 6, 9, 11, 58, 60, and 61.

Between the Testaments: 2nd Temple Judaism 520 b.c.-70 c.e.

Required Reading: Hopfe, 251-271.

Week 10

The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism: 200 b.c.-500 c.e.; Judaism: Kabbalah, Hasidic Pietism, Emancipation, Holocaust

Christianity in the First Century: The Historical Jesus

Required Reading: Hopfe, 278-295; 319-322 (Matthew 5-7); Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 4:1-30; Galatians 1, 2; II Corinthians 11-13; Acts 15.

Week 11

From Early Catholicism to the Catholic Tradition: 200-1500

Required Reading: Hopfe, 295-302.

The Formation of the Protestant Evangelical Tradition: 1517-1800

Required Reading: Hopfe, 302-318.

Week 12

The Formation of the Protestant Liberal Tradition: 1800-2000

Required Reading: Hopfe, 307-318.

Week 13

Islam: The Prophet and the Faith of Islam

Required Reading: Hopfe, 328-344; 357-364 (selection from the *Qur'an*).

Film: "There is no God but God"

Week 14

Islam: Development of Law, Sufism, 18th & 19th Century Reform Movements, Islamic Fundamentalism (from Ibn Hanbal to Muhammad Al'Wahhab)

Required Reading: Hopfe, 344-356.

Islam in the 19th and 20th Century: Arab Nationalism vs. Islamic Fundamentalism

Week 15

Film: "The Message" (on the life and message of prophet Muhammed).

GLOBALIZATION QUESTION DUE

FINAL EXAM WILL BE POSTED THE WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS

RELIGIOUS SITES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS THAT THE SITE VISIT AND REPORT MUST BE DONE FOR A RELIGIOUS TRADITION **THAT IS NOT THE STUDENT'S OWN**. If a phone number is no longer valid, call information and please let the instructor know that the number(s) has been changed so that the directory can be updated. If you learn about other sites not included below, please let the instructor know also. **I strongly recommend that you visit the site first to familiarize yourself with location and the times officially given by the personnel at the site. Any information concerning service times given below are tentative.**

ISLAMIC: the times to go are Fridays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Female students can bring a scarf with them if they don't want to stand out, but it is not required.

Miami Gardens Mosque (Sunni)
4305 N.W. 183 street
Miami, Florida 33055

Mosque of Miami (Sunni)
7350 N.W. 3rd Street
Miami, Florida 33126
305-261-7622

Masjid Al-Ansar (Sunni)
5245 N.W. 7th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33127
305-757-8741

Islamic School of Miami
Masjid al-Noor (Sunni)
11699 SW 147 Ave
Miami, FL 33196
(305) 408-0400
Tasnim Uddin, Principal of School
Friday: 1:30 pm, Islam School on Sundays: 10am-12pm
(behind the Exxon gas station)

Islamic Jafferia Association Imambara (Shia)
10554 N.W. 132nd Street
Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016
(305) 557-6835
<http://www.ijamiami.org/>

Muhammad's Mosque # 29 (Nation of Islam)
5660 N.W. 7th Ave.
Miami, Florida
305-756-9136

BAHAI

FIU Bahai Club
305-436-2490

Bahai Faith (South)

9300 S. Dixie Hwy.
Miami, Florida
305-570-8886

Bahai Faith (North)
4365 Rock Island Rd.
Ft. Lauderdale
(North of Commercial)
954-524-4084

BUDDHIST

(Nichiren Buddhist)
Sokka Gakkai International
Miami Community Center
20000 S.W. 36th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33332
954-349-5200

Avalokitesvara Buddhist Study Center (Buddhist)
7550 S.W. 82nd Court
Miami, Florida 33143
305-271-6361
267-8000

International Zen Institute of Florida (Buddhist)
Dharma House
3860 Crawford Avenue
Miami, Florida 33133
305-448-8969

Wat Buddharangsi Temple (Thai, Buddhist)
15200 S.W., 240th Street
Homestead, Florida
305-245-2702

Amida Temple ("Pure Land" Buddhist)
c/o Kuang-Hsi Wu
12815 S.W. 119 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33186
305-385-2866

International Dharma Center (Buddhist)
P.O. Box 141728
Coral Gables, Florida
33114-1728
305-267-8000 (Ileana Davis)

Kagyü Shedrup Chöling (Tibetan Buddhist)
1905 Monroe Street
Hollywood, Florida 33020 954-920-1346

HINDU: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Shiva Vishnu Temple 5661 Dykes Rd.

(S.W. 160th Ave)

Pembroke Pines (Davie)

954-689-0471

webmaster@shivavishnu.org

(I-75 north, exit at Sheridan, go west to Dykes Road, then go north for about a mile, temple on the left)

The South Florida Hindu Temple

13010 Griffin Road

Davie, Florida

954-438-3675

info@sfht.org

Hare Krishna Temple

3220 Virginia St.

Coconut Grove, Florida

305-442-7218

SIKH: Plan to attend Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Sikh Society of Florida

16000 Sterling Rd.

Pembroke Pines, Florida

954-680-0221

(Same directions as to Shiva Hindu Temple, but closer to Sheridan on Dykes Road)

JAIN

Jain Center of South Florida

1960 N. Commerce Parkway #11

Weston, FL 33326

Here is Direction Link for Jain center.

<http://jaincentersfl.com/direction.html>

JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN

Synagogues: Friday evenings, near Sundown; and Saturday mornings, 8:00 a.m. only.

Christian churches: 11:00 a.m. morning service. Consult Yellow Pages for synagogue or church nearest where you live.

Students are encouraged to do detective work and find representatives of the other major world religions in Miami or the South Florida area: **Taoism**, **Confucianism** (Chinese), **Shinto** (Japanese), and **Zoroastrianism** (Persian/Iranian, and mostly in Bombay, India).

Name of site visited	Site location (complete address)
Sect/branch and/or subsect	Phone number
Contact person (if any)	Hours of worship: Days and Times

1. Fundamental beliefs (important if you are visiting a sectarian group, and note differences in belief and practice from its parent group), and sources of authority or basis for the religion or sect (such as inspired scriptures, teachers, direct revelations, and the like). Specify both the religion and the sect or branch you have visited (e.g., Hindu temple [Shiva, Vishnu, Hare Krishna]; Synagogue [Orthodox, Reformed, Conservative]; Buddhist sect [Pure Land, Nichiren, Tibetan, Mahayana, Theravada] Islamic sect [Nation of Islam, Sunni, Shia], etc.).

2. Why is the religion here in South Florida, whose needs is the religion/sect meeting. Narrate the reasons for the appearance of sect in South Florida.

***3.** Describe art, symbols, images, cultic objects (including sacred scriptures, if of artistic or aesthetic merit) of the religion.

4. Distinctive dress, articles of clothing, of members and/or clergy of the religion you witnessed during visit. Inquire as to whether normally there is a distinctive dress, etc. in other locations. Include how much adaptation or concessions to "American" ways of worshipping you witnessed during your visit (for this you may also have to tap a knowledgeable person for information).

***5.** Forms of ritual, worship/liturgy, special ceremonies, particular/distinctive practices that you saw practice during your visit.

6. Major religious festivals or sacred days (and their dates and days during the year) celebrated in South Florida (and those elsewhere, such as in the country of origin of religion or where religion is strongest).

***7.** Describe how what you saw and heard impacted you; did visit enhance your appreciation for that particular religious faith and/or for religion in general; did you feel you were "worshipping"?; did anything strike you in a negative way?; what was the most positive result of your visit?

*** Starred/boldfaced items should constitute the bulk of your report**, what you should give priority to when you write your report. Also, it is important that you make an effort to enter sympathetically into the religion you will be visiting. You do not have to agree with what you see and hear, but you should make an effort to understand it. After your visit and as you write your report, you will have the opportunity to express your opinion about what you witnessed.