

**FALL 2014 – REL 3308 U06 – Studies in World Religions**

Meets Saturday 11:00 am to 1:45 pm



**Instructor: Ellen Randolph**

**Email:** [eprandol@fiu.edu](mailto:eprandol@fiu.edu)

Supervising Instructor: Dr. Erik Larson

Email: [larsone@fiu.edu](mailto:larsone@fiu.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

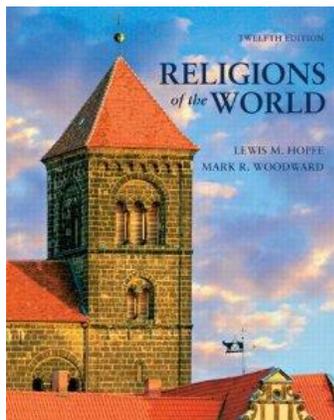
This comparative religions course examines the world's major religions, both ancient and contemporary, from historical, psychological, sociological, anthropological and archeological perspectives. We will explore the various myths, rituals, symbols, scriptures, festivals and spiritual leaders of indigenous and tribal communities, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and New Religious Movements (including New Age).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Understand the key underlying beliefs and principles of the major world religions.
- Appreciate the early bases and origins of religion among Indigenous Peoples and Shamanic cultures.
- Discern the major similarities and differences between Eastern and Western religions, including cultural and historical contexts, as well as local, national and/or international contexts.
- Be aware of the broad movements and developments in religious belief and practices from ancient to contemporary times.
- Critically engage the issue of religious diversity in national and international context (Global Engagement).
- Analyze issues in the field of religions studies from multiple approaches (Global Perspective).
- Evaluate the interrelationship between his/her own and others' religious views as they relate to understanding other cultures and solving common problems (Global Awareness)

## REQUIRED TEXT



Religions of the World, 12th edition (2012)  
Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward

ISBN 978-0-205-158607  
ISBN 0-205-15860-9

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE

This class meets once a week: Saturday 11:00 am to 1:45 pm. Since the class only meets one day a week, 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.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place in class, in Blackboard, and through FIU 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.

## GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a Global Learning course, students will be 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**

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. 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.

## **EXAMS**

The quizzes will include 20 questions based on that week's text readings worth one point each. Each quiz will be timed and you will be able to take each quiz twice, with the highest grade counted towards your total. There will be 12 quizzes, one per week. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. The ten highest quizzes together are worth 20% of the final grade. The Final Exam will be 50 questions from the 12 quizzes. The Final Exam will be timed and taken online during final exam week but can be only taken once. The final exam is worth 10% of the final grade.

## **ESSAYS**

Essay 1 (Site Visit) 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 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. The Site Visit should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard. The Site Visit is worth 20% of the final grade.

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) - The student will analyze the article 'The Case for Contamination' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis includes two discussion questions on Blackboard Discussion Group. For more information, see Assignments in Blackboard. The Appiah Analysis is worth 10% of the final grade.

**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 points per day for up to three days, after which papers will not be accepted for any reason.

## **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.

## **GROUP PRESENTATION**

Students will give a group presentation on a topic related to the text readings, using PowerPoint, Prezi or similar. Guidelines will be given in class but the group will present current issues, events or people that impact the religion in that week's readings. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation groups. If a student cannot attend on the day of the presentation, they may be seriously penalized (up to receiving a 0 for the project) depending on their participation in project development. The group presentation is worth 50 points and is 10% of the final grade.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance and Participation together are worth 50 points and 10% of the final grade. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. However, students are given two “free” absences in order to accommodate transportation issues, illness, family responsibilities and unavoidable absences. Students are strongly encouraged to save their “free” absences for unavoidable events since any other absences will incur a penalty of 10 points each. 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

## EXTRA CREDIT

Review a movie in which two religions merge or conflict with each other and write a five-paragraph reaction paper describing the role that religion plays in the story or event. Focus on 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 can be based on a real situation but should not be a documentary or a movie specifically about a religion or a religious figure. If in doubt about your selection, ask the instructor for approval. The extra credit paper is worth up to an extra 20 points. All extra credit reports are due no later than December 1.

## GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	SCALE	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Quizzes (12 x 20 points each, drop two lowest)	200	20%
Essay 1 - Site Visit (due Sept. 29)	100	20%
Essay 2 - Appiah Analysis (due Nov. 17)	100	20%
Final Exam (due Dec. 13)	100	20%
Presentation	50	10%
Participation & Attendance	50	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

## CALENDAR

MODULE	TOPIC	PREP
Week 1 August 30	<p><b>Topic:</b> What is religion?</p> <p>Introductions, syllabus review, class plan BREAK Intro lecture, clips and discussion: Demographics</p>	Introduction p.2-11
Week 2 September 6	<p><b>Topic:</b> Basic Religions and Native American Religions (US)</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Readings lecture, clips and discussion</p>	Chapters 1-2 p.12-44  QUIZ 1
Week 3 September 13	<p><b>Topic:</b> African Traditional Religions and Afro-Caribbean Religions</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 1: presentation and discussion</p>	Chapter 3 p.48-67  QUIZ 2
Week 4 September 20	<p><b>Topic:</b> Hinduism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 2: presentation and discussion</p>	Chapter 4 p.68-113  QUIZ 3
Week 5 September 27	<p><b>Topic:</b> Jainism and Sikhism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Film and discussion: Clothing and discrimination</p> <p><b>Essay 1 Site Visit Draft due by 11:59 Monday September 29</b></p>	Chapters 5 and 7 p.116-126 p. 156-166  QUIZ 4
Week 6 October 4	<p><b>Topic:</b> Buddhism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 3: presentation and discussion</p>	Chapter 6 p.128-155  QUIZ 5

<p>Week 7 October 11</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Chinese Religions</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 4: presentation and discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 8 p.172-197</p> <p>QUIZ 6</p>
<p>Week 8 October 18</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Shinto</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 5: presentation and discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 9 p.204-216</p> <p>QUIZ 7</p>
<p>Week 9 October 25</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Zoroastrianism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Clips and discussion: Population and religion</p>	<p>Chapter 10 p.224-238</p> <p>QUIZ 8</p>
<p>Week 10 November 1</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Judaism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 6: presentation and discussion</p> <p><b>Essay 2 Appiah Response due by 11:59 pm on November 3</b></p>	<p>Chapter 11 p. 242-276</p> <p>QUIZ 9</p>
<p>Week 11 November 8</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Mormonism</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Film and discussion: Missionaries and religion</p>	<p>Chapter 10-11 p. 224-242</p> <p>QUIZ 10</p>
<p>Week 12 November 15</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Christianity</p> <p>Readings lecture: Catholics and Protestants BREAK Student group 7: presentation and discussion</p>	<p>Chapter 12 p.278-319</p> <p>QUIZ 11</p>
<p>Week 13 November 22</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Islam</p> <p>Readings lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 8: presentation and discussion</p>	<p>Chapters 13 p.328-357</p> <p>QUIZ 12</p>

<p>Week 14 November 29</p>	<p>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break</p> <p><b>Extra credit due by 11:59 pm on Monday December 1</b></p>	
<p>Week 15 December 6</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> New Religious Movements: Baha’i, Scientology and Wicca</p> <p>Lecture, clips and discussion BREAK Student group 9: presentation and discussion</p>	
<p>Week 16 December 13</p>	<p>NO CLASS</p> <p><b>FINAL EXAM (take online) due by 11:59 on Saturday December 13</b></p>	