

FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
F-2015 Religion: Interpretation and Analysis

FALL 2015 - Instructor Gregory Pope

Tu-Thrs 9:30- 10:45AM

Email: Popegb@fiu.edu

Office Hours: Tu-Thrs 11:00 – 12:00 noon

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 (Suggested)

Videos: The Great Religions of the World (A supplement to the Site Visits)

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:

- 10%..... Group Class Presentation
- 10%.....Essay
- 20%Group Site Visit Class Presentation
- 20%Group Research Paper
- 20%Individual Research Paper
- 15%..... Exam
- 5%Class Participation and Attendance

Assignments:

There will be group presentations, a site visit, research papers, an essay, and an exam... **All papers should be double space with 12’ font.**

PHASE 1:

First Group Presentation: students will be divided into groups. Each group will be required to read a section from the novel *Ishmael*, and then present their deliberative perspectives in class.

Essay: students will be required to write a 2-3 page essay indicating how their religious views have been either enhanced, challenged, or changed by the readings. This paper will be submitted to Instructor.

PHASE 2:

Site Visit (Group Presentation): students will be divided into groups. Each group will be required to visit a religious site that has been assigned to them by the Instructor. Each group will then be required to give an oral presentation (in class) about their experience.

Group Research Paper: each group will choose a religious ritual that they observed during the site visits and write a 7-9 page research paper, as a group project. The group may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

PHASE 3:

Research Paper: students will choose a particular religion and write a 7-9 page research paper indicating how that religion (rituals, practices, theology, movements, etc.) is affected by its socio-political context. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

The Exam will come from the Instructor's lectures and book readings. The exam will consist of true or false questions, definition of terms, fill in the blanks and two essays. There will be a class review covering the exam.

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, some materials will inevitably be covered in class that is 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 the visit to the library.

**FIU RELIGIOUS STUDIES
DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

August	25	Introduction
	27	Ishmael, Section 1& 2 (Lecture)
September	01	Ishmael, Section 3 & 4 (Group 1 Presents)
	03	Ishmael, Section 5 & 6 (Group 2 Presents)
	08	Ishmael, Section 7 & 8 (Group 3 Presents)
	10	Ishmael, Sect. 9&10 (Group 4 Presents)
	15	Ishmael, Section 11 & 12 & 13 (Class Discussion)
	17	Library
	22	Lecture on writing a Research Papers (Essays Due)
	24	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Lecture)
29	Saint-Laurent, Spirituality and Religion (Class Discussion)	
October	01	Video (Site Visits should be completed)
	06	Judaism (Group 1 Oral Presentation)
	08	Video
	13	Islam Spirituality (Group 2 Oral Presentation)
	15	Video
	20	Hinduism (Group 3 Oral Presentation)
	22	Video
	27	Buddhism (Group 4 Oral Presentation)
29	Video	
November	03	Video (Group Research Paper Due)
	05	Grant, White Women's Christ
	10	Grant, White Women's Christ
	12	Grant, White Women's Christ
	17	Grant, White Women's Christ
	19	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
	24	Grant, Black Women's Jesus (Research Paper Due)
December	01	Grant, Black Women's Jesus
	03	Class Review for Exam
	08	Exam @ 9:45 – 11:45 AM on Tuesday