

FIU Department of Religious Studies

Religion: Analysis and Interpretation

REL 2011 Section U09

Spring 2013

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion. It is also a Gordon Rule course. Thus, a minimum of three written assignments is required. This course will involve a take home essay exam, a site visit, a midterm, a final exam, and a term paper.

Course Objectives

- Strong focus on Native American Religions, Shinto, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Discover the history, teachings, and practices of various religions and be able to interpret and explain the meaning and structure of a selected group of religious texts and practices of the various religions discussed in class
- Appreciate the diversity and similarities among different religions and be able to evaluate and describe the context, influence, and structure of these religious communities within a given society
- Improve students' writing skills
- Fulfill Gordon Rule requirement

Required Reading

Textbook

- *Religions of the World* by Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark Woodward, 12th Edition

Instructor Information

Name	Miss Jennell Botello	
Class Hours	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00pm - 2:50pm	
Class Room	PC 428	
Email	jbotel01@fiu.edu	
Turnitin.com	Class ID #: 5927564	Class Password: religion13

All turnitin assignments are due at 11:59pm on the due date

*****ABSOLUTELY NO TAPE RECORDING DEVICES**

OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED***

Course Requirements

Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Site Visit	20%
Term Paper	15%
Essay Exam	15%
Attendance	10%

Grading Scale

93-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F
90-92	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

Course Policies

Midterm

The midterm (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The midterm focuses on the first half of the semester, which will be Native American Religions, Shinto, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

*****No Make Ups*****

Final

The final (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The final is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the midterm exam, which will be Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

*****No Make Ups*****

Site Visit

Students will turn in a site visit paper worth (20%) of the overall grade. Students will attend a religious service from a religion that is **not** their own and write a formal report on the experience. The students will be emailed more detailed instructions and a list of suggested places during the first week of school. The paper will be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Term Paper

Students will turn in a term paper worth (15%) of the overall grade. The term paper is a research assignment on a topic relating to the course that particularly interests the student. The topic for the paper must receive the approval of the instructor before it is submitted. The term paper must be a minimum of 8 pages and no more than 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography or works cited page and the cover page. This paper is formal and must be typed, *not hand-written*, in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The margins should be 1-inch on all sides. *APA*, *MLA*, and *Chicago Manual Style* will be accepted. According to the style of choice, the student is advised to include footnotes or endnotes. The students will be emailed more detailed instructions during the first week of class. This paper will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Essay Examination

Students will be given a take home essay exam during the semester, which will be worth (15%). The essay exam is a formal paper that must be typed in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The students must answer a series of questions and submit the answers to www.turnitin.com. The questions and extra reading material will be emailed a couple of weeks before the due date.

Attendance

Attendance is (10%) of the student's grade. The student is allowed three absences for the semester without being penalized. Any absence after the three allowed ones will result in points being deducted from the student's final grade. Attendance is strongly advised since the professor uses outside knowledge and material to supplement the book and make the lectures more complete. The attendance grade also includes lateness and conduct in class. Those students who talk excessively, constantly enter and leave the classroom due to phone calls, text message continuously, listen to their ipods during lectures, and play on their laptops during class time will have their attendance score marked down. Students who are considered to be disruptive and disrespectful will be asked to leave and their attendance will be marked down.

*****Cell phones must be set to silent mode*****

Extra Credit (Movie Review)

Students will pick a movie with a religious theme from a list that will be emailed during the first week of class and answer certain questions according to the movie chosen. The student is able to earn a total of 5 points to their lowest grade. The movies are placed on reserve on the 5th floor of the Green Library under the name Professor Botello. They can also be found on Netflix or your local video store. This assignment will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Syllabus

1. [Monday – January 7] Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements
2. [Wednesday – January 9] Native American Religions
Reading for This Class: Chapter 3
3. [Friday – January 11] Native American Religions
4. [Monday – January 14] Shinto
5. [Wednesday – January 16] Shinto
Reading for This Class: Chapter 9
6. [Friday – January 18] Shinto
7. [Monday – January 21] **Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)**

8. [Wednesday – January 23] Shinto
Distribute Take Home Exam
9. [Friday – January 25] *Movie*
10. [Monday – January 28] *Movie*
11. [Wednesday – January 30] *Movie*
12. [Friday – February 1] *Movie*
13. [Monday – February 4] Hinduism
Reading for This Class: Chapter 4
Take Home Exam Due
14. [Wednesday – February 6] Hinduism
15. [Friday – February 8] Hinduism
16. [Monday – February 11] Hinduism
17. [Wednesday – February 13] Hinduism / Buddhism
18. [Friday – February 15] Buddhism
Reading for This Class: Chapter 6
19. [Monday – February 18] Buddhism
Term Paper Due
20. [Wednesday – February 20] Buddhism
21. [Friday – February 22] Buddhism
22. [Monday – February 25] *Kundun* (movie)
23. [Wednesday – February 27] *Kundun* (movie)
24. [Friday – March 1] *Kundun* (movie)
25. [Monday – March 4] **Midterm Exam**
26. [Wednesday – March 6] Judaism
Reading for This Class: Chapter 11
27. [Friday – March 8] Judaism

28. [Monday – March 11] **Spring Break**
29. [Wednesday – March 13] **Spring Break**
30. [Friday – March 15] **Spring Break**
31. [Monday – March 18] Judaism
32. [Wednesday – March 20] Judaism
33. [Friday – March 22] Judaism
34. [Monday – March 25] Christianity
Reading for This Class: Chapter 12
Site Visit Due
35. [Wednesday – March 27] Christianity
36. [Friday – March 29] Christianity
37. [Monday – April 1] Christianity
38. [Wednesday – April 3] Christianity
39. [Friday – April 5] Islam
Reading for This Class: Chapter 13
40. [Monday – April 8] Islam
Extra Credit Due
41. [Wednesday – April 10] Islam
42. [Friday – April 12] Islam
43. [Monday – April 15] Islam
44. **Final Exam - TBA**

***** **The Schedule Is Subject To Change. Any Changes Will Be Emailed** *****

Plagiarism

1. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment. If the student has plagiarized the entire work then the student will be given a grade of F for the class followed by disciplinary actions

2. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions
3. It is recommended to look over the University's Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm>

Additional Information

1. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of all papers submitted to the instructor.
2. MLA, APA, and Chicago writing styles are accepted for the written assignments.
3. The University's last day to drop courses or withdraw without incurring a financial liability is **Monday January 14.**
4. Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund of tuition is **Friday February 1**
5. Deadline to drop a course with a DR grade is **Monday March 18**