

**FIU DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**S-2013 Religion: Interpretation and Analysis**

**SPRING 2013 - Instructor Gregory Pope**  
**Tu-Thrs 9:30 – 10:45 A.M.**  
**Email: [GPope65310@aol.com](mailto:GPope65310@aol.com)**

**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

*Videos: The Great Religions of the World* (A supplement to the Saint-Laurent text.)

**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:

- 25% .... Research Project
- 25% .... Site Visit and Paper (15% each)
- 20%.....Exam
- 15%.....Book Reviews (5% each)
- 10%.....Quizzes
- 5% ...Class Video Notes

### **Assignments:**

There will be a final exam, a research project, a site visit and essay, three (3) book reviews, pop quizzes, class video notes. **All papers should be double space with 12' font.**

**Final Exam** will be on the material covered in class: lectures and readings. The exam will be definition of terms and essays.

**Research Project:** Student will choose a religious symbol or object that is not association with their own faith, and write a 5 page theological reflection about that symbol or object. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

### **Site Visit and Essay:**

**Site Visit:** Students will visit a religious site other than their own faith, observe a ritual, and write a three page essay articulating how their own theology was informed by that experience. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Essay:** Students will research the ritual that they observed during their site visit and write a seven page scholarly paper. The student may use any academic style, as long as the usage is consistent. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Book Reviews: (3 @ 5% each)**

Student will write a two page critical book review, highlighting the authors' main argument. This paper will be submitted to the Instructor.

**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, pop quizzes will be given during random class periods; as well as, some materials will inevitably be covered in class that are 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 visit to the library.

**Due Dates of Assignments will be given in class:**

The class will be divided into three parts covering the related subject matters found in the three books. This will include lectures, movies, and class discussions.