

SPRING 2013 - REL 2011- RELIGION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor: Gudny Rossen
E-mail: Use Blackboard email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online section of Religion: Analysis and Interpretation will use a multimedia approach to explore the basic concepts in the study of religion. This format's scope includes the exploration of concepts such as deity, theodicy, cosmology and ritual and others such as religious social implications in society. The student will be introduced to each concept through the textbook, videos, and PowerPoint presentations by members of the Religious Studies faculty, each in their own research specialization. Throughout the course the student will also be exposed to specific rituals, myths, doctrines, ethics and symbols from various different world religions and cultures. Students will be tested on this material through time-restricted quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. Two essays will develop the student's critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For each of these essays, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of their own tradition. This course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions.
 - Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.
 - Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols.
 - Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
 - Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
 - Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
 - Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community.
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

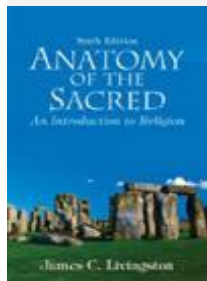
POLICIES

Please review the [policies page](#) as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

For information about prerequisites, [click here](#).

TEXTBOOK



Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction to Religion

James C. Livingston

Prentice Hall, 6th Edition

ISBN 10: 013600380X

ISBN 13: 9780136003809

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
 - **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
 - **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
 - **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
 - **Review** and follow the course calendar
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COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **messages**.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

GORDON RULE REQUIREMENT

As this is a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write a minimum of two major assignments, with the first submitted in both a first and a second draft. The first draft of Essay 1 will account for 30% of that paper grade, and the second draft for the other 70%. Each paper should be 6-7 pages long.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUIZZES

A time-restricted, online quiz will be given on each week's religious concept. You can take each quiz twice, and the highest of the two attempts will be recorded. Even if you do well on the first attempt, it is advisable to use both attempts. You will not receive the same quiz the second time; the computer randomly chooses the questions from a quiz database. The objective Midterm (Exam 1) & Final (Exam 2) questions will be taken directly from this database. Thus, the more times you take the quiz, the more questions you will receive and the better prepared you will be for the exams.

For the quizzes, you will have 15 minutes to complete 10 questions. Each quiz will be open from Monday to Saturday, and you can take it on any of those days at any time.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

Note: Quiz resets will not be granted. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS – (MULTIPLE CHOICE PORTION + WRITTEN PORTION)

The Midterm Objective (Exam 1) & Final Objective (Exam 2) are both online, time-restricted examinations. They are in the Assessments area. Students have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of the Midterm and Final Exams. Only the quizzes are allowed to be attempted twice.

The essay topics for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability time. The essay portions of these exams must be submitted to turnitin.com. All assignments can be submitted to Turnitin.com via Blackboard in the Assignment Dropbox Folder.

The Midterm Essay and the Final Exam Essay should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

ESSAYS – SITE VISIT AND APPIAH ANALYSIS

Turnitin.com

All Essays, 'Site Visit - Essay 1 (Draft & Final Copy)' and 'Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis)' and 'Midterm Essay' and 'Final Essay', will be turned into Turnitin.com via a link in Blackboard. It is not necessary to create a separate Turnitin account.

Students will write **two essays** during the semester, in addition to the midterm and final exam essays.

The Site Visit essay will be handed in twice via turnitin.com:

- as a **draft** worth 30% of the essay grade
- as a **final paper** worth 70% of the essay grade

For the Site Visit-Essay 1, 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 approximately 1500-2000 words long.

For the Appiah-Analysis Essay 2, the student will analyze the article 'The Case for Contamination' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis Essay should be approximately 1500-2000 words long.

These two essays are not the same assignment as the essay portion of the exams.

Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com electronic receipt (confirmation of assignment submission), until you have received your final grade for the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers

Late papers will not be accepted.

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 for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay 1 – Site Visit (draft = 30 points and final essay = 70 points)	100	20%
Essay 2 - Appiah Analysis	100	20%
Quizzes (13*110) / 13	110	20%
Midterm (Exam 1) (objective part = 50 points and essay part = 50 points)	100	20%
Final (Exam 2) (objective part = 50 points and essay part = 50 points)	100	20%
Total		100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	Above 93	B-	81 - 83	D+	67 - 70
A-	91 - 92	C+	77 - 80	D	64 - 66

B+	87 - 90	C	74 - 76	D-	61 - 63
B	84 - 86	C-	71 - 73	F	< 61

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MODULE	TOPIC	TEXT
Week 1 January 7-12	<p>Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site. Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar.</p> <p>Section I - The Study of Religion</p> <p>Topic: Defining Religion. Why Are Humans Religious? Why Study Religion?</p>	Chapter 1 p. 1-14
Week 2 January 14-19	<p>Section I - The Study of Religion</p> <p>View Presentations: <i>Dr. Northup - What Is Religion? How Is It Studied? Dr. Huchingson -The Sacred and the Holy.</i></p> <p>Topic: The Perspective of the Student–Commitment and Objectivity. The Ways Religion Is Studied. Interpreting and Explaining Religion.</p> <p>Take Quizzes 1 & 2</p>	Chapter 2 p. 15-34
Week 3 January 21-26	<p>Section II. Universal Forms of Religious Experience and Expression</p> <p>View Presentation: Dr. Huchingson -The Sacred and the Holy.</p> <p>Topic: The Concept of Sacred Power. The Ambivalence of Sacred Power. The Holy as Mysterium Tremendum and Fascinans. Sacred Space and Sacred Time. Religion as Ultimate Concern.</p> <p>Take Quiz 3: The Sacred and the Holy</p>	Chapter 3 p. 35-52
Week 4 January 28- February 2	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Northup - Sacred Symbol, Myth, and Doctrine.</p> <p>Topic: Symbolic Communication. Religious Symbols. Metaphor, Parable, and Story. Religious Myths. Models and Doctrines.</p> <p>Take Quiz 4: Sacred Symbol, Myth, and Doctrine</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 Draft Copy due from last names A-G via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox- February 2, 11:59 pm</p>	Chapter 4 p. 53-73
Week 5 February 4-9	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Northup - Sacred Ritual.</p> <p>Topic: Ritual Action. Types of Sacred Ritual. Ritual and Sacrifice. Ritual as</p>	Chapter 5 p. 74-95

	<p>Sacraments.</p> <p>Take Quiz 5: Sacred Ritual</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 Draft Copy due from last names H-R via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox – February 9, 11:59 pm</p>	
<p>Week 6 February 11-16</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Larson - Sacred Scripture.</p> <p>Topic: The Pervasive Role of Sacred Scripture. Using the Term Scripture. Some Distinctive Features of Sacred Scripture. The Authority and Canonicity of Scripture. The Reception and Uses of Scripture. The Interpretation of Scripture.</p> <p>Take Quiz 6: Sacred Scripture</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 Draft Copy due from last names S-Z via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox – February 16, 11:59 pm</p>	<p>Chapter 6 p. 96-123</p>
<p>Week 7 February 18-23</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Wuaku - Society and the Sacred: The Social Formations and Transformations of Religion.</p> <p>Topic: The Reciprocal Relationship between Religion and Society. Types of Religious Communities. Voluntary Religious Communities. Protest and Change in Voluntary Religious Communities. The Sect. The Cult: New Religious Movements.</p> <p>Take Quiz 7: Society and the Sacred</p>	<p>Chapter 7 p. 124-150</p>
<p>Week 8 February 25- March 2</p>	<p>Take Midterm-Exam 1 (objective and essay parts) –</p> <p>Covers materials from Week 1-7 Monday, February 25, 12:00 am – Saturday, March 2, 11:59 pm</p>	
<p>Week 9 March 4-9</p>	<p>Section III. Universal Components of a Religious Worldview</p> <p>View Presentation: Dr. Huchingson- Deity: Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate Reality.</p> <p>Topic: Polytheism and the Worship of Nature. Dualism. Pantheism and Monism. Monotheism.</p> <p>Take Quiz 8: Deity</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 - Final Copy due from last names A-G via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox March 9, 11:59 pm</p>	<p>Chapter 8 p. 151-182</p>
<p>Week 10 March 11-16</p>	<p>View Presentation: Rabbi Shulkes - Cosmogony: Origins of the Natural and Social Order.</p> <p>Topic: The Practical Basis of Cosmogony. Emergence or Procreation from a Primal Substance or Being. The Sexual Union of a Primal Male and Female. Creation by Conflict and the Ordering of Chaos. Creation by a Divine Craftsman. Creation by Deceit or from Nothing. The Rejection of Cosmogonic Speculation.</p>	<p>Chapter 9 p. 183-210</p>

	<p>Cosmogony Today.</p> <p>Take Quiz 9: Cosmogony</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 - Final Copy due from last names H-R via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox March 16, 11:59 pm</p>	
<p>Week 11 March 18-23</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Wuaku - Anthropology: The Human Problem.</p> <p>Topic: Modern Views of Our Human Plight. Stoicism. Christianity. Theravada Buddhism. Confucianism.</p> <p>Take Quiz 10: The Human Problem</p> <p>Site Visit Essay #1 - Final Copy due from last names S-Z via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox March 23, 11:59 pm</p>	<p>Chapter 10 p. 211-234</p>
<p>Week 12 March 25-30</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Gudorf - Theodicy: Encountering Evil.</p> <p>Topic: The Persistent Demand for Theodicy. Theodicy of "Mystical Participation." A Future, This-Worldly Theodicy. Other-Worldly Theodicy. Dualism. The Karma-Samsara Theodicy. Monotheistic Theodicies.</p> <p>Take Quiz 11: Theodicy</p>	<p>Chapter 11 p. 235-258</p>
<p>Week 13 April 1-6</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Gudorf - Ethics: Patterns of Moral Action.</p> <p>Topic: Virtues and Obligations. The Sources and Norms of Moral Authority.</p> <p>Take Quiz 12: Ethics</p> <p>Essay #2 – Appiah Analysis due from last names A-G on April 6 by 11:59 pm via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox</p>	<p>Chapter 12 p. 259-286</p>
<p>Week 14 April 8-13</p>	<p>View Presentation: Dr. Huchingson - Soteriology: Ways and Goals of Salvation and Liberation.</p> <p>Topic: Ways of Salvation and Liberation. The Way of Grace through Faith. The Way of Devotion. The Way of Action and Obligation. The Way of Mediation and Insight. Goals of Salvation and Liberation. Psychic Wholeness and a Healthy Social Order. Resurrection, Immortality, and Eternal Life. Samadhi and Nirvana.</p> <p>*NO QUIZ THIS WEEK</p> <p>Essay #2 – Appiah Analysis due from last names H-R on April 13 by 11:59 pm via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox</p>	<p>Chapter 13 p. 287-338</p>
<p>Week 15 April 15-20</p>	<p>Section IV. The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity</p> <p>View Presentation: Dr. Bidegain - The Sacred and the Secular in Modernity.</p> <p>Topic: Secularization and Pluralism. The Discontents of Religion.</p>	<p>Chapters 14-15 p. 339-398</p>

Fundamentalisms Today. The Characteristics of Contemporary Religious Fundamentalism. The Status and Roles of Women in Religion. Relations between Religion and State.

Take Quiz 13: Soteriology and Fundamentalism (this quiz covers material from Week 14 and Week 15)

Essay #2 – Appiah Analysis due from last names S-Z on April 20 by 11:59 pm via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox

Week 16
April 22-27

Take Final - Exam 2 (objective and essay parts)

Covers materials from Week 8-15
Monday, April 22, 12:00 am – Saturday, April 27, 11:59 pm