

SPRING 2013- REL 3308- STUDIES IN WORLD RELIGIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online section of Studies in World Religions will use a multimedia approach to explore Basic Religions, Native American Religions, African Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Daoism/Confucianism, Shinto, Christianity, Islam, Sects & Cults and Religion in the 21st Century. The student will be introduced to each tradition through the textbook, videos, and PowerPoint presentations offered by the members of the Religious Studies faculty, each in their own research specialization. Students will be tested on this material through time-restricted quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. One essay assignment will be given and is due via turnitin.com. The essay assignment will test each student's knowledge of the world religions and how they compare. There are strict guidelines for this assignment that can be found under the "Essay dropbox" located under Course Content.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast religious societies and cultures in the local, national and/ or international context.
 - Situate these societies and cultures within contemporary and historical perspective.
 - Critically engage the issue of religious diversity in national and/ or international context.
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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

Living Religions (Required)

Mary Pat Fisher

Prentice Hall, 8th edition

ISBN 10: 0205835856

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

Important Note: To successfully view the online videos in this class, you will need a high-speed Internet connection. If you only have dial-up Internet, you will need to visit one of the FIU computer labs to download and watch the videos.

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.

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **E-Mail**.

The email feature is **external** communication that allows users to send emails to users enrolled in the course including the instructor and other students.

Within the email feature in Blackboard, users can select whom to email, including the Professor and members of the class; users will receive notifications that they have new Blackboard emails to the student's FIU email on record.

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

DISCUSSION FORUMS

The Discussion Board will be used for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information. Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

QUIZZES

A weekly time-restricted, online quiz will be given on each religious tradition. **You can take each quiz two times, and the higher 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 every time; the computer randomly chooses the questions from a quiz database. The objective questions on the midterm and final exams 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 **10 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.

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.

Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.).

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](#).

EXAMS – MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS (MULTIPLE CHOICE + 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.** See folder under Course Content called "Assignment Dropbox" for links.

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

The midterm will cover Basic Religions, African Religions, Native American Religions, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism, while the final exam will cover Daoism/Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Sects and Cults, and Religion in the 21st Century.

TERM PAPER

Turnitin.com

The Term Paper will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Blackboard. It is not necessary to create an account on Turnitin.com to submit this assignment.

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.

The Term Paper assignment is to construct an argument to answer **ONE** of the following three questions (Don't forget to provide evidence to support your arguments!):

1. Which of the religions you have studied seems to be most focused on behavior and deeds, and which on the cultivation of spiritual and moral character? Explain the reasons for such differences by exploring underlying sociological and historical themes.
2. Although Buddhism and Hinduism share many similar beliefs, they differ in their understanding of one's self, or the 'soul.' Explore these two religions and the concepts of anatman and atman, especially in relation to how they conceive of the sacred (god/gods) and the way to salvation.
3. What is the meaning of the word Jihad in Islam? How has this concept been interpreted by Muslims and what role does it have within their worldview, especially in modern times?

When reading your essays, I will be looking at three different elements: Research, Style, and Argument. Each will be taken into account when assigning a grade.

Research refers to the information in your paper. Is it correct? Is it detailed? Do you demonstrate basic knowledge of the religious tradition from which the concept is taken? Is this knowledge evident in your description? You must use at least three academic sources in your paper. One of them must be a book reference.

Style refers to how that information is presented. This includes the way the information is organized and language skills such as spelling, grammar, and proper sentence structure.

Argument refers to the quality of your analysis, how well you support your argument.

Important:

You will need to do research; your textbook and required readings will not have enough information about the topic. You will need to consult a minimum of three outside sources and one must be a book reference. You will also need notes in your paper, and a Bibliography/Works Cited page. You may use any recognized style manual, but you must use it consistently. Your paper should be between 1500-2000 words.

Do not use Wikipedia as an internet source. You may use internet sources, but use only academic sources from the internet. (Academic sources list individual authors, name their sources, and have institutional affiliations.) Points will be deducted for infractions of these rules.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Papers

I do not accept late work, except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies. In most cases, excuses will not be accepted. If you wait until the last minutes to complete a quiz or an exam, or wait to submit the term paper, the 'traffic' may be heavy and the submission may not go through. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTES TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK** because this is not a valid excuse.

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](#) if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
Term Paper	20%
Quiz Average (13 Quizzes Total)	20%
Midterm (Exam 1) - 50 points objective; 50 points essay	30%
Final (Exam 2) - 50 points objective; 50 points essay	30%
Total	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	Above 93	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

COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MODULE	ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS
Week 1 January 7-12	<p><i>Intro and Basic Religions</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Introduction to Religion" by Dr.. Northup. Video "Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime."</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapters 1, Religious Responses, and 2, Indigenous Sacred Ways</p> <p>Take Quiz 1 (extend due date to end of Week 2 for students who enroll late) Religious Responses and Indigenous Sacred Ways</p>
Week 2 January 14-19	<p><i>Native American Religion</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Native American Religions" by Dr. Huchingson.</p> <p>Read: William A. Young, Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions, chapter 1. Full text available through Course Content.</p> <p>Take Quiz 2: Native American Religions</p>
Week 3 January 21-26	<p><i>African Religion</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "African Religions" by Dr. Rey.</p> <p>Read: E. Thomas Lawson, "The Yoruba and Their Religious Tradition"</p> <p>Take Quiz 3: African Religions</p>
Week 4 January 28- February 2	<p><i>Hinduism</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Hinduism" (Lecture I and Lecture II) by Dr. Katz.</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 2, Hinduism</p>

	<p>Take Quiz 4: Hinduism</p>
<p>Week 5 February 4-9</p>	<p><i>Jainism</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Jainism" by Samani Charitra Prajna</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 4, Jainism</p> <p>Take Quiz 5: Jainism</p>
<p>Week 6 February 11-16</p>	<p><i>Buddhism</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Buddhism" by Dr. Heine</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 5, Buddhism</p> <p>Take Quiz 6: Buddhism</p>
<p>Week 7 February 18-23</p>	<p>Midterm - Exam 1</p> <p>Midterm - Exam 1 (Objective and Essay portions) Available Monday, February 18, 12:00 am – Saturday, February 23, 11:59 pm</p>
<p>Week 8 February 25- March 2</p>	<p><i>Taoism/Confucianism</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Taoism/Confucianism" by Prof. Avila PowerPoint presentation "Shinto" by Prof. Avila</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapters 6, Taoism/Confucianism, and 7, Shinto</p> <p>Take Quiz 7: Daoism/Confucianism and Shinto</p>
<p>Week 9 March 4-9</p>	<p><i>Judaism</i></p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Judaism" (Part I and II) by Dr. Stier Watch video "Mystic Lands: Jerusalem: Mosaic of Faith."</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 8, Judaism</p>

	<p>Take Quiz 8: Judaism</p>
<p>Week 10 March 11-16</p>	<p>Spring Break</p>
<p>Week 11 March 18-23</p>	<p>Islam</p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Islam" by Dr. Musa.</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapters 10, Islam, and 11, Sikhism</p> <p>Take Quiz 9: Islam</p>
<p>Week 12 March 25-30</p>	<p>Christianity</p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The First Millennium" by Dr. Larson. PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The Second Millennium" by Dr. Gudorf.</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 9, Christianity</p> <p>Take Quiz 10: Christianity</p>
<p>Week 13 April 1-6</p>	<p>Christianity in North America</p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Religion in North America" by Dr. Northup</p> <p>Take Quiz 11: Christianity and North American Religion</p>
<p>Week 14 April 8-13</p>	<p>Sects and Cults</p> <p>View: PowerPoint presentation "Sects and Cults" by Dr. Northup</p> <p>Read: Fisher - Chapter 12, New Religious Movements</p> <p>Take Quiz 12: Sects and Cults - New Religious Movements</p> <p>Term Paper Due Friday, April 12, 11:59 pm via Turnitin in Assignment Dropbox</p>
<p>Week 15 April 15-20</p>	<p>Religion in the 21st Century</p>

View:

PowerPoint presentation "Religion in the Future" by Dr. Gudorf

Read:

Fisher - Chapter 13, Religion in the 21st Century

Take Quiz 13:

Religion in the 21st Century

Final - Exam 2

Week 16
April 22-27

Final - Exam 2 (Objective and Essay portions)
Available from April 22, 12:00 am – Saturday, April 27, 11:59 pm