

## **REL 3308 STUDIES IN WORLD RELIGIONS SUMMER RVBB 2014**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

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 required 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 "Term Paper Instructions & Guidelines" 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.

### **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.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS**

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" page to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [technical requirements page](#) for additional information.

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION**

Obtain more detailed information about the [specific limitations with the technologies](#) used in this course.

Review [Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment](#) for more information.

For additional assistance please contact our [Disability Resource Center](#).

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

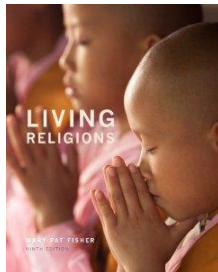
For information about prerequisites, [click here](#).

### **PROCTORED EXAM POLICY**

**Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.**

It is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams by carefully reviewing this syllabus. For detailed instructions please visit our [Proctored Exam Resources](#) page on the FIU Online website.

### **TEXTBOOK**



#### **Living Religions**

Mary Pat Fisher

Pearson, 9th Ed., 2013

**ISBN-10:** 0205956408

**ISBN-13:** 978-0205956401

### **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 **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.

### **DISCUSSION FORUMS (10%)**

There are will be a total of **four** discussion board assignments throughout the semester (see course calendar for the dates). These discussions are meant to stimulate critical thinking about how religions manifest in our globalized world. There will be discussion questions posted for you to answer on selected weeks throughout the semester. The responses in the discussions should be well thought out and written in standard American English (that is to say, use correct spelling and proper punctuation and capitalization). You are expected to include links to news articles or other media sites to strengthen your positions on particular issues.

In addition to posting your own answers to the discussion topics, you should respond to the postings from your fellow classmates and/or the instructor. Each of the five weeks that you participate, you should respond to at least **two** of your classmates' posts. In other words, you should have at least **three** substantial posts in total for each discussion topic. At the end of the course, your discussion thread will be graded based on the quantity and the quality of what your posts.

In responding to others, it is important to be courteous and respectful. If you disagree with something that has been said, that is fine. But be sure to explain why and where appropriate support your own view with evidence. Also, it is fine to ask questions that are related to our topic to extend the discussion. But please make sure the questions are relevant. Please remember that this is an academic forum.

Discussion topics will be open from Monday to Sunday of each week that a discussion topic is posted. See the course calendar for the weeks that have discussion topics posted.

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

### **QUIZZES (20%)**

A weekly time-restricted, online quiz will be given on each religious tradition. **You can take each quiz two times, and the highest score 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 Exam 1 and Exam 2** 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 **20 minutes to complete 10 questions**. Each quiz will be open from Monday to Sunday, and you can take it on any of those days at any time. (**Please check Assessment page for quiz availability dates**).

**Important Policy on Quiz Resets:** 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.). You would have to message me with an attached copy of a doctor's report or receipt or something that indicates you were hospitalized or sick. Quizzes **will not** be reset on the basis of **internet disconnection/interruptions, technical difficulties or unable to finish the quiz within the given time**.

If you know that you will be **unable to take a quiz** during a specific week, **send me a message in advance**, and the quiz may be opened so you may take it early. It is the responsibility of students to keep up with the readings and take the quizzes on 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**.

## **EXAMS (50%)**

Exam 1 and Exam 2 are both online, objective exams with multiple choice and matching questions in a time-restricted exam.

They are in the **Assessments** area. **Students have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of the Exam 1 and Exam 2, unlike the quizzes.** That is, unlike the **two attempts** for the quizzes, you have only **one attempt** for the objective portions of Exams 1 and 2. **Please make note of this important difference.**

*Exam 1* will cover Basic Religions, African Religions, Native American Religions, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism.

*Exam 2* will cover Daoism/Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Sects and Cults, and Religion in the 21st Century

## **TERM PAPER (20%)**

Sources: Three academic courses minimum and one must be a book

Length: 6 pages minimum (excluding Bibliography/Works Cited page), but not more than 9 pages

Font: 12 pt font, Arial or Times New Roman

Style: You may use any recognized style manual, but you must use it consistently.

### **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.

**\*\*Students may not submit Work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.**

The essay will be turned in to Turnitin.com via Blackboard. Click on the link in the [Term Paper Instructions & Guidelines](#) folder in the Course Content page. 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 essay assignment is based on the recent talk by H. H. the Dalai Lama on “The Significance of World Religions.” View the talk online (available under the folder **Term Paper Instructions & Guidelines**), and also read the essay “Exclusivists vs. Pluralists: very different paths to one Truth” by Aseem Shukla (available on Blackboard under the folder **Term Paper Instructions & Guidelines**).

Then, construct an essay based on your studies of world religions that considers the significance of world religions. What is their significance? Why are there so many religions? Consider also Shukla’s perspective. Based on what you have learned and read, would you say that there is an inherent unity behind all of the differing manifestations of religions? Is this what the Dalai Lama is saying? And if the religions differ significantly, what are the meanings of these differences? Does Shukla’s characterization of Dharmic/Abrahamic makes sense to you? (Don’t forget to provide evidence to support your arguments!)

- You will need to do research; your textbook and other required readings may 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.
- The paper should be at least 6 pages long, and no more than 9 pages.
- You must use academic sources, meaning sources that are attributed and use citations to back up the author’s claims.

When reading your essays, I will be looking at three different elements: **Content, Style,** and **Research.** 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. For more detailed instructions, please see the "Essay" page under Course Content

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Previously Submitted Coursework**

Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.

### **Extra Credit**

No Extra Credit will be offered in this course

### **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 minute 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 MINUTE 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.

### Quiz resets

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.).

If you know that you will be unable to take a quiz during a specific week, contact the instructor in advance, and the quiz may be opened so you may take it early. It is the responsibility of students to keep up with the readings and take the quizzes on 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](#).

## GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Term Paper	20%
Quiz Average (13 Quizzes Total)	20%
Objective Midterm (Exam 1)	25%
Objective Final (Exam 2)	25%
Discussion Board Participation (4 in total)	10%

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

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
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 June 23-29	<p>Before you start the course: Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course deadlines and assignment details. Use the course calendar below to navigate through the course's contents.</p> <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Basic Religions</li> </ul> <p><b>View:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Introduction to Religion" by Dr. Northup.</li> <li>• Video "Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime."</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Fisher - Chapters 1, Religious Responses, and 2, Indigenous Sacred Ways</p> <p><b>Take:</b> Quiz 1 Religious Responses and Indigenous Sacred Ways Available Monday, June 23 – Sunday, July 6</p> <p><b>Due in Discussion Forum:</b> Introduce Yourself</p>
	<p><b>Topic:</b> Native American Religion</p> <p><b>View:</b> PowerPoint presentation "Native American Religions" by Dr. Huchingson.</p> <p><b>Read:</b> William A. Young, Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions, chapter 1. Full text available through Course Content.</p> <p><b>Take:</b> Quiz 2 Native American Religions: Available Monday, June 23 – Sunday, July 6</p>



MODULE	ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS
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**Topic:** African Religion

**View:**

PowerPoint presentation "African Religions" by Dr. Rey.

Week 2

June 30 -July 6

**Read:**

E. Thomas Lawson, "The Yoruba and Their Religious Tradition" under Course Content

**Take:**

Quiz 3: African Religions Available Monday, June 23 – Sunday, July 6

**Due in Discussion Forum:**

Discussion 1 Available Monday, June 30 – Sunday, July 6

**Topic:** Hinduism

**View:**

PowerPoint presentation "Hinduism" (Lecture I and Lecture II) by Dr. Katz.

**Read:**

Fisher - Chapter 3, Hinduism

**Take :**

Quiz 4: Hinduism Available Monday, June 30 – Sunday, July 6

**Topics:**

- Jainism
- Buddhism

**View:**

- PowerPoint presentation "Jainism" by Samani Charitra Prajna
- PowerPoint presentation "Buddhism" by Dr. Heine

Week 3

July 7-13

**Read:**

- Fisher - Chapter 4, Jainism
- Fisher - Chapter 5, Buddhism

**Take:**

- Quiz 5 Jainism: Available Monday, July 7 - Sunday, July 13
- Quiz 6 Buddhism : Available Monday, July 7 - Sunday, July 13

**MODULE****ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS****Due in Discussion Forum:**

Discussion 2 Available Monday, July 7 - Sunday, July 13

**Midterm Exam 1 (Objective Exam)**

Available Monday, July 7 - Sunday, July 13

**Topics:**

- Taoism
- Confucianism

**View:**

- PowerPoint presentation "Taoism/Confucianism" by Prof. Avila
- PowerPoint presentation "Shinto" by Prof. Avila

Week 4

July 14-20

**Read:**

Fisher - Chapters 6, Taoism/Confucianism, and 7, Shinto

**Take:**

Quiz 7 Daoism/Confucianism and Shinto

Available Monday, July 14 – Sunday, July 20

**Due in Discussion Forum:**

Discussion 3 Available Monday, July 14 – Sunday, July 20

MODULE	ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS
	<p><b>Topic:</b> Judaism</p> <p><b>View:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Judaism" (Part I and II) by Dr. Stier</li> <li>• Watch video "Mystic Lands: Jerusalem: Mosaic of Faith."</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Fisher - Chapter 8, Judaism</p> <p><b>Take:</b> Quiz 8 Judaism Available Monday, July 14 – Sunday, July 20</p> <p><b>Due via Assignment Dropbox:</b> Term Paper due Sunday July 20, 11:00pm</p>
<p>Week 5 July 21-27</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Islam</p> <p><b>View:</b> PowerPoint presentation "Islam" by Dr. Musa.</p> <p><b>Read:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisher - Chapters 10, Islam,</li> <li>• Fisher – Chapter 11, Sikhism</li> </ul> <p><b>Take:</b> Quiz 9: Islam Available Monday, July 21 - Sunday, July 27</p>
	<p><b>Topic:</b> Christianity</p> <p><b>View:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The First Millennia" by Dr. Larson.</li> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The Second Millennia" by Dr. Gudorf.</li> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Religion in North America" by Dr. Northup</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Fisher - Chapter 9, Christianity</p> <p><b>Take:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 10: Christianity Available Monday, July 21 - Sunday, July 27</li> <li>• Quiz 11: Christianity and North American Religion Available Monday, July 21 - Sunday, July 27</li> </ul> <p><b>Due in Discussion Forum:</b></p>

MODULE	ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS
	Discussion 4 Available Monday, July 28 – Sunday, August 3
<p>Week 6 July 28- August 3</p>	<p><b>Topic:</b> <i>Sects and Cults &amp; Religion in the 21st Century</i></p> <p><b>View:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Sects and Cults" by Dr. Northup</li> <li>• PowerPoint presentation "Religion in the Future" by Dr. Gudorf</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisher - Chapter 12, New Religious Movements</li> <li>• Fisher - Chapter 13, Religion in the 21st Century</li> </ul> <p><b>Take:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 12: Sects and Cults - New Religious Movements Available Monday, July 28 – Sunday, August 3</li> <li>• Quiz 13: Religion in the 21st Century Available Monday, July 28 – Sunday, August 3</li> </ul>
<p>Final Exam July 31- August 1</p>	<p><b>Final - Exam 2 (Objective Exam)</b> Exam 2: Available Thursday, July 31 – Friday August 1</p> <p>Please note that the Final -Exam 2 will only be available for two days.</p>