

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor:
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By Appointment
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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 [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette 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](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

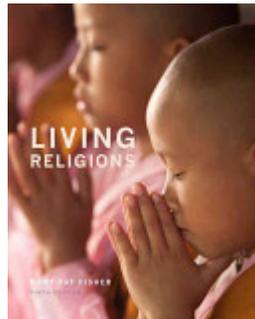
Review the [Course Catalog](#) webpage for prerequisites information.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

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

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

TEXTBOOK



Living Religions

Mary Pat Fisher

Pearson College Division, 01/08/2013

ISBN-10: 0205956408

ISBN-13: 9780205956401

[Book Info](#). You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses 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
- Submit assignments by the **corresponding deadline**

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

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

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

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.

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](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

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

Review the detailed [Turnitin Instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

GRADING

Course Requirements		Number of Items	Weight
Term Paper		1	20%
Quiz Average		13	20%
Midterm (Exam 1) - 50 points objective		1	25%
Final (Exam 2) - 50 points objective		1	25%
Discussion Board Participation		4	10%
Total			100%

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Module	Assignments & Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 1 <i>Monday, May 11</i></p>	<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>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Basic Religions <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "Introduction to Religion" by Dr. Northup. • Video "Mystic Lands: Australia: Dreamtime." <p>Read:</p> <p>18. Fisher - Chapters 1, Religious Responses, and 2, Indigenous Sacred Ways</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>19. Quiz 1 Religious Responses and Indigenous Sacred Ways Available Monday, May 11 – Sunday, May 24</p> <p>20. Due in Discussion Forum: Introduce Yourself</p> <hr/> <p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Religion <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "Native American Religions" by Dr. Huchingson. <p>Read:</p> <p>23. William A. Young, Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions, chapter 1. Full text available through Course Content.</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>24. Quiz 2 Native American Religions: Available Monday, May 11 – Sunday, May 24</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 2 <i>Monday, May 18</i></p>	<p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Religion <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "African Religions" by Dr. Rey. <p>Read:</p> <p>27. E. Thomas Lawson, "The Yoruba and Their Religious Tradition" under Course Content</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>28. Quiz 3: African Religions Available Monday, May 11 – Sunday, May 24</p>

Module	Assignments & Readings
	<p>29. Due in Discussion Forum: Discussion 1 Available Monday, May 18 – Sunday, May 24</p> <hr/> <p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinduism <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "Hinduism" (Lecture I and Lecture II) by Dr. Katz. <p>Read:</p> <p>32. Fisher - Chapter 3, Hinduism</p> <p>Take :</p> <p>33. Quiz 4: Hinduism Available Monday, May 18 – Sunday, May 24</p>
<p>Week 3 <i>Monday, May 25</i></p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jainism • Buddhism <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "Jainism" by Samani Charitra Prajna • PowerPoint presentation "Buddhism" by Dr. Heine <p>Read:</p> <p>38. Fisher - Chapter 4, Jainism 39. Fisher - Chapter 5, Buddhism</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>40. Quiz 5 Jainism: Available Monday, May 25 – Sunday, May 31</p> <p>41. Quiz 6 Buddhism: Available Monday, May 25 – Sunday, May 31</p> <p>42. Due in Discussion Forum: Discussion 2 Available Monday, May 25 – Sunday, May 31</p> <p>43. Midterm - Exam 1 Available Monday, May 25, 12:00am – Sunday, May 31, 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 4 <i>Monday, June 1</i></p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taoism • Confucianism <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation "Taoism/Confucianism" by Prof. Avila • PowerPoint presentation "Shinto" by Prof. Avila <p>Read:</p> <p>48. Fisher - Chapters 6, Taoism/Confucianism, and 7, Shinto</p>

Module	Assignments & Readings
	<p>Take:</p> <p>49. Quiz 7 Daoism/Confucianism and Shinto Available Monday, June 1 - Sunday, June 7</p> <p>50. Due in Discussion Forum: Discussion 3 Available Monday, June 1 - Sunday, June 7</p> <hr/> <p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judaism <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentation "Judaism" (Part I and II) by Dr. Stier Watch video "Mystic Lands: Jerusalem: Mosaic of Faith." <p>Read:</p> <p>54. Fisher - Chapter 8, Judaism</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>55. Quiz 8 Judaism Available Monday, June 1 - Sunday, June 7</p>
<p>Week 5 <i>Monday, June 8</i></p>	<p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islam <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentation "Islam" by Dr. Musa <p>Read:</p> <p>58. Fisher - Chapters 10, Islam 59. Fisher – Chapter 11, Sikhism</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>60. Quiz 9: Islam Available Monday, June 8 - Sunday, June 14</p>
	<p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The First Millennium" by Dr. Larson PowerPoint presentation "Christianity: The Second Millennium" by Dr. Gudorf PowerPoint presentation "Religion in North America" by Dr. Northup <p>Read:</p> <p>65. Fisher - Chapter 9, Christianity</p> <p>Take:</p>

Module	Assignments & Readings
	<p>66. Quiz 10: Christianity Available Monday, June 8 - Sunday, June 14</p> <p>67. Quiz 11: Christianity and North American Religion Available Monday, June 8 - Sunday, June 14</p> <p>68. Due via Assignment Dropbox: Term Paper due June 14, 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 6 <i>Monday, June 15</i></p>	<p><i>*Note, this week is shorter than the rest of the weeks because Summer A semester ends on Friday, June 19</i></p> <p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sects and Cults & Religion in the 21st Century <p>View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentation "Sects and Cults" by Dr. Northup PowerPoint presentation "Religion in the Future" by Dr. Gudorf <p>Read:</p> <p>72. Fisher - Chapter 12, New Religious Movements 73. Fisher - Chapter 13, Religion in the 21st Century</p> <p>Take:</p> <p>74. Quiz 12: Sects and Cults - New Religious Movements Available Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19</p> <p>75. Quiz 13: Religion in the 21st Century Available Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19</p> <p>76. Due in Discussion Forum: Discussion 4 Available Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 17</p>
<p>Final Exam <i>June 15 - 19</i></p>	<p>Final - Exam 2 Exam 2-Objective: Available Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19</p> <p>Exam 2- Essay: Available Monday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 17 NOTE: The written exam is due on Wednesday!</p>