

SUMMER A, 2015 – REL 3308 U02A, #55893 – Studies in World Religions

Tuesday—Thursday from 2:40 to 6:00 PM – PC 212



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

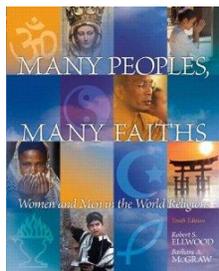
This comparative religions course examines the world's major religions, both ancient and contemporary, from historical, psychological, sociological, anthropological and archeological perspectives. We will explore the various myths, rituals, symbols, scriptures, festivals and spiritual leaders of indigenous and tribal communities, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and New Religious Movements (including New Age).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Understand the key underlying beliefs and principles of the major world religions.
- Appreciate the early bases and origins of religion among Indigenous Peoples and Shamanic cultures.
- Discern the major similarities and differences between Eastern and Western religions, including cultural and historical contexts, as well as local, national and/or international contexts.
- Be aware of the broad movements and developments in religious belief and practices from ancient to contemporary times.
- Critically engage the issue of religious diversity in national and international context (Global Engagement).
- Analyze issues in the field of religions studies from multiple approaches (Global Perspective).
- Evaluate the interrelationship between his/her own and others' religious views as they relate to understanding other cultures and solving common problems (Global Awareness)

REQUIRED TEXT



Many Peoples, Many Faiths 10th edition (2013)
Robert S. Ellwood, and Barbara McGraw

ISBN 978-0205797110

ISBN 0-205-79711-3

EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE

This class meets twice a week: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:40 to 6:00 pm. Students are expected to arrive promptly and stay for the full duration of the class. Students should be prepared to participate in class by reading the assignments and by developing discussion or presentation material, as requested. Students are responsible for carefully reading the syllabus and calendar, meeting deadlines as posted, and submitting mature, thoughtful work.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place in class, in Blackboard, and through FIU email. The best method to communicate with your instructor privately is through email. Appointments can be made on request. Please contact the instructor immediately if a serious situation arises which will impact student performance.

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a Global Learning course, students will be meet the following objectives through text readings, assignments, and class discussions:

1. Students will be able to analyze topics in the field of religious studies from multiple perspectives.
2. Students will be able to assess how global issues and trends are interrelated with the development and practice of religions
3. Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.

DISCUSSION AND PRIVACY

Some of this material may be new, personal or controversial, so please maintain an open-minded and considerate attitude, allowing others time to reflect and communicate. Keep in mind that in-class and online discussions are public. Be cautious with your words and your sources. Respect others' privacy and do not share class conversations with others outside of class. Recognize that fellow students may not wish to give personal opinions about some topics.

EXAMS

The Final Exam is in-class, time-restricted examinations. The exam has 50 multiple-choice questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points (two points per question) and 20% of the final grade. Students will need a green Scantron and a pencil for each exam. There will be an exam study guide available to the students a week before each exam. NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to give pop quizzes, if the students do not seem sufficiently prepared for class discussion.

ESSAYS and ONLINE FORUM DISCUSSIONS

The Site Visit Essay will be turned into Turnitin.com via Assignments in Blackboard. It is not necessary to create a separate Turnitin account. Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your Turnitin.com electronic receipt until you have received your final grade for the course.

Site Visit Essay (June 1st)- The student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. The Site Visit Essay should be 750-1000 words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard. The Site Visit is worth 100 points and represents 20 percent of the final grade.

Appiah Essay (due on June 13th) The student will read the '*The Case for Contamination*' by Kwame Anthony Appiah and write an analytical essay of 750-1000 words, cited correctly, to be turned in at the end of the semester in turnitin.com. This essay will be worth 100 points and represents 20 percent of the final grade.

Three out of four Online Film Discussions: - The student will analyze the article '*The Case for Contamination*' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis will be discussed in class and on the Blackboard Discussion Group. For more information, see Assignments in Blackboard. The Appiah Analysis is worth 25 points. There will also be online forum discussions of two films: BLACKROBE (1991) and GANDHI (1982) and MALCOLM X, worth 20 points each. Each discussion will focus on the interaction of two different religions; indigenous and Christian in BLACKROBE, and Hindu and Muslim in GANDHI, and Christian and Muslim in MALCOLM X. The four online forum discussions together are worth a total of 15 percent of the final grade.

LATE PAPERS: Late papers will not be accepted. If a student has an approved, documented excuse, late papers may be accepted with a penalty of 10 points per day for up to three days, after which papers will not be accepted for any reason.

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/~oabb/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F (0 points) for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly for the course. Please be aware: Previously submitted papers are not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are retaking this class. You may not “reuse” papers.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give a group presentation on a topic related to the text readings, using PowerPoint, Prezi or similar. Guidelines will be given in class but the group will present current issues, events or people that impact the religion in that week's readings. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation groups. If a student cannot attend on the day of the presentation, they may be seriously penalized (up to receiving a 0 for the project) depending on their participation in project development. The group presentation is worth 15 percent of the final grade.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and Participation together are worth 10 percent of the final grade. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. Attendance on time gives 2 points, an excused absence or a late arrival gives 1 point, speaking up at least once in class gives 1 point. Students with 6 or more absences will receive 0 points for attendance. Please inform the instructor immediately if a situation develops which will impact your performance or attendance. Participation includes reading for class, contributing to discussions and being attentive to lectures and student presentations. Please refrain from texting and emailing in class. Arriving late, leaving early or stepping out of the class for long periods of time may incur an absence penalty. Students will be expected to sign in on the class roster which will serve as documentation of their attendance.

EXTRA CREDIT

Write a 3 page (750 words double-spaced) review or critical response of one of the following films: GANDHI, BLACKROBE, KINGDOM OF HEAVEN or MALCOLM X, in which two religions merge or conflict with each other describing the role that religion plays in the story or event. Focus on the ways in which religious beliefs or practices influence the plot or meaning of the movie. Do not tell the whole story of the movie, but just enough so that your points are clear. Make sure to include your own personal reaction to the movie (you liked it, you didn't like it and why) as well as a section relating the events of the movie to the themes discussed in our class and textbook. The extra credit paper is worth up to (and no more than) an extra 1 percent on the final grade. Only a total of 3 extra credits will be allowed. **All extra credit reports are due no later than June 20.**

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay - Site Visit (due by May 27)	100	15%
Essay Site revision (mandatory)	Replaces	1 st grade
3 Online forum Discussions	60	15%
Appiah Essay (due on June 17th)	100	15%
Group Presentation	100	10%
Participation & Attendance (<i>Current Events</i>)	40	10%
Ten Chapter Tests	100	15%
FINAL EXAM	100	20%
Total	600	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	93 – 100	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

CALENDAR

WEEK	READINGS	CLASS PLAN & DUE DATES
1	Chapters 1	May 12: Welcome and Overview of class, Organize Groups. May 14: Introductory lecture: Film: BLACKROBE *** GO ON YOUR SITE VISIT EARLY ***
2	Chapters 2 & 3	May 19: Readings, lecture: Indigenous Religion. Film: GANDHI May 21: Readings, lecture: Spiritual Paths of India. Appiah Article *** FORUM DISCUSSION OF BLACKROBE DUE *** MAY 24
3	Chapters 4 & 5	May 26 Readings, lecture: Buddhism. Film: GANDHI May 28: Readings lecture, Groups: Confucianism, Shinto. *** SITE VISIT ESSAY DUE *** FRIDAY, MAY 27 ~ TURNITIN
4	Chapters 6 & 7	June 2: lecture, groups: Abrahamic Monotheism/Zoroasterianism June 4: Readings, lecture, groups: Judaism *** FORUM DISCUSSION OF APPIAH DUE *** JUNE 7
5	Chapters 8 & 9	June 9: Readings lecture, groups: Christianity. Film: MALCOLM X June 11: Readings lecture, groups: Islam. *** FORUM DISCUSSION OF APPIAH DUE *** JUNE 14
6	Chapter 10	June 16: Readings lecture, groups: New Religious Movements. June 18: Video clips, discussion and Review. *** APPIAH ANALYTICL ESSAH DUE *** JUNE 17 ~ TURNITIN *** MAKE-UPS/EXTRA CREDITS DUE *** JUNE 19 TBA: Final exam