

Summer A, 2015 - REL 2011 – U02A, #51594 - RELIGION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tuesday—Thursday from 10:50 to 2:10 PM – DM 190

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor: Joseph Holbrook

Email: jholbroo@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

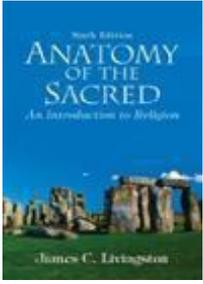
This section of Religion: Analysis and Interpretation will use text readings, in-class participation and multimedia to explore basic concepts in the study of religion. This format's scope includes the exploration of concepts such as deity, cosmology and myth, ritual, scripture, ethics and salvation/liberation. The student will be introduced to each concept through the textbook, class lectures, student presentations, videos, Internet sources and discussions. 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 in a midterm exam and a final exam. Two essays will develop the student's critical thinking skills and writing abilities. For the first essay, the student will conduct field research by attending a religious service outside of his/her own tradition. For the second essay, the student will read and review an article on religion and globalization. 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.

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 class meets three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to 11:45 am. Since the class is only six weeks long, 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. 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.

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

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

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 essay submitted in both a first and a second draft. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be submitted as a draft for 25% of the final grade and will be resubmitted as a revised final version for additional revisions points. Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) will be submitted in a final version for 25% of the final grade. Each paper will be 1000-1500 words and will be submitted through Turnitin. All source material must be cited correctly using MLA Style and **long quotes should be avoided**. Please be aware that papers with an originality score of over 35% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points). In addition, students are required to contribute two online forum discussion posts (of 400 words) reviewing selected films, and leave a reply to another students post.

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a Global Learning course, students will be expected to 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

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.

ESSAYS

Essay 1 (Site Visit Draft & Final Copy) and Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) 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 (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

Essay 1 (Site Visit) - The student will do field research by attending a religious service or ceremony outside of his/her own religious tradition. Essay 1 (Site Visit) will be handed in twice via Turnitin: First as a draft worth 25% of the final grade, and later as a revised final paper for additional revision points. The Site Visit should be **1000-1500 (4 to 5 pages double-spaced)** words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

Essay 2 (Appiah Analysis) - The student will analyze the article '*The Case for Contamination*' by Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Appiah Analysis is worth 25% of the final grade. The Appiah Analysis should be **1000-1500 (4 to 5 pages double-spaced)** words and cited correctly. For more details about this assignment, see Assignments in Blackboard.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give one **group presentation** (5 minutes per person in the group) on a topic related to course readings. Guidelines will be given in class for the presentation on some portion of the course text. Additional information might include a demonstration, an explanation of a term/idea, a brief travel description/slide show, or a book review. Be creative and informative! The presentation will be worth 60 points and is 15% of the final grade. Students are responsible for signing up for presentation slots. If a student cannot attend on the day of the presentation, they may arrange with their group to change dates, but subject to permission from the instructor. If a student misses his/her presentation slot and does not make arrangements to make it up, the student will receive 0 points for the presentation.

EXTRA CREDITS

Review a film with a religious theme and write a three- paragraph reaction paper describing the role that religion plays in the story or event. Focus on religious symbols, rituals, myths or 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. The movie selection must be approved by the instructor. The extra credit is worth one extra percentage point on the final grade. Only a maximum of 3 extra credits are allowed. All extra credit reports are due **no later than June 19**. Other possible sources of extra credit include following the course twitter account (@REL_FIU) and commenting at least 6 times on the course blog: <http://josenmiamireligion.blogspot.com>.

COURSE POLICIES

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 5 points per day for up to five 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/~oabp/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.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and Participation together are worth 40 points and 10% of the final grade. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. 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.

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

COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE 1 - The Study of Religion

Week 1 (MAY 12-14)

May 12 – Introductions, syllabus and organize groups.

May 14 - Chapter 1 - "What is Religion?" p.1-14
Chapter 2 "Ways of Studying Religion" p.15-34.
Film: *Black Robe* (1991, 1 hr. 42 m.)

Quizzes 1 & 2 due on Friday May 15 at midnight. SITE VISIT?

Week 2 (May 19-May 21)

May 19 – Chapter 3 "The Sacred and the Holy" p.35-52.

May 21 - Chapter 4 "Sacred Symbols and Myths" p.53-73.

July 4 –Don't forget your SITE VISIT!

Quiz 3 & 4 due on Friday night, May 22 at midnight.

FILM Discussion "Black Robe" (300 words) due Sun. May 24 at midnight.

MODULE 2

Week 3 (May 26-28)

May 26 - Chapter 5 – "Sacred Ritual" p.74-95; – Group presentations

May 28 - Chapter 6 – "Sacred Scripture" p.96-123; Chapter 7 – "Society and the Sacred" p.124-150
- Optional Film: "Luther" (2003 – 2hrs 3 m.).

SITE VISIT ESSAY, due Wednesday night May 27 at midnight.

Quiz 5, 6 & 7 due on Friday night, May 29 at midnight.

Week 4 (June 2-4)

June 2 - Chapter 8 – "Deity: Concepts of the Divine" p.151-182; – Group presentations

June 4 – Ch. 9 – "Cosmogony: Origins of the Natural Order" p.183-210; Ch. 10 – "Views of the Human Problem" p. 211-234

- Film: "Gandhi" (1982 – 3hrs 11 m.).

Quizzes 8, 9 & 10 due on Friday night, June 5 at midnight.

SITE VISIT ESSAY, Revisions due Wed. night June 3 at midnight.

MODULE 3

Week 5 (June 9-11)

June 9 - Chapter 11 – “Theodicy” Encountering Evil” p.235-258; Group Presentations

June 11 –Ch. 12 “Ethics: Foundations of Moral Action” p. 259-286; Ch. 13 – “Soteriology: Ways of Salvation” – Group presentation

**Quizzes 11, 12 & 13 due on Friday night, June 12 at midnight.
FILM Discussion about “GANDHI” (300 words) due Sun. June 14 at midnight**

Week 6 (June 16 – June 18)

June 16 – Chapter 14; finish group presentations

June 18 –Chapter 15

Final Exam online June 19

**Quizzes 14 & 15 due on Thurs. night, June 18 at midnight.
FINAL “APPIAH” ESSAY-TURNITIN (1000 words) due on June 17, at midnight.**

***ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP WORK OR EXTRA CREDITS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 19th UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!**