

Syllabus is Provisional and is subject to change

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SUMMER B 2016

| REL 2011 | U02B
INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION
Venue: OWA EHAN 102

Days: T/TH Time: 2:40 pm -6pm

Instructor: Prof Albert Wuaku (Ph.D)	
Office: DM 309A SOUTHERN CAMPUS	Office Hours: Thursday 1pm-2pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using text readings, in- class participations and multi-media, this course will explore the basic concepts in the study of religion as a way of introducing students to the field. The scope of the course includes the exploration of concepts such as deity cosmology, myth and ritual scripture, ethics and salvation. This course is designed to enable students to delve into the complexities of the religious experience through students' exposure to specific ritual; mythologies doctrines ethics and symbols of the various religions on the world. There will be class assignments, discussions, as well as a sacred site visit. These are all geared towards making the student really think about and analyze the dynamics of religion in the lives of people and societies especially in our increasingly globalizing world..

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will recognize religious themes and concepts in the world's cultures
- Students will identify the meanings of religious concepts and symbols

Students will evaluate their own religious views in relation to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.

- Students will apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies

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- Students will be able to think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world
- Students will learn to conduct field research within religious communities to better understand lived religious experiences.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE

This class meets two times in a week: T/TH 2:40 -6 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.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbook: Anatomy of the Sacred: An Introduction of Religion [Current Edition]
By James C Livingston
Pearson/Prentice Hall

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AND OTHER MATTERS

- **E-mail:** wuakua@fiu.edu
- **Contact:** During office hours

GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHTS
Essay 1 site visit (due July 15 th)	Points - 100.pts

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Exams- 4 exams-	Points-100, each exam.
Essay 2 Appiah Analysis (July 25th 7)	Points -100
Class attendance/punctuality and participation (a requirement)	Points-50
Total	Points 650
Grade of student will be the tally of his or her points expressed as a % of 650.	

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	< 59

EXPLANATION OF THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are 4 Exams. These are time-restricted examinations online. Each exam has multiple choice questions based on the text readings. Each exam is worth 100 points and 20% of the final grade.

Exam 1 will be based on topic discussed in week 1

Exam 2 will be based on topics discussed in week 2

Exam 3 will be based on Topics discussed in week 3

Exam 4 will be based on Topics discussed in weeks 4, 5 and 6

All exams are online. The professor will announce via email when the exam is opened and when it will close.

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THE ESSAYS

As a Gordon Rule course, students will be required to write Essays. There will be 2 Essays. Essay 1 will be based on a Site Visit.

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 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. The Site Visit is worth 100 points.

Essay 2 is an analysis of an Article by Anthony Appiah, on Globalization. The Title of this essay is the Case for Contamination. The essay should be 1200-1500 words and cited correctly. The essay is worth 100 points.

Essays will be turned in to Bb. Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Attendance and Participation together are worth 50 points.

Students are expected to attend every class, arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the class. However, students are given three “free” absences in order to accommodate transportation issues, illness, family responsibilities, work scheduling, and unavoidable absences. Students are strongly encouraged to save their “free” absences for unavoidable events since any other absences will incur a penalty of 5 points each. Students with ten or more absences (after the three “free” 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.

FORMAT FOR ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE AND EXPECTATIONS

You will need to do research on the Essays: Your textbook and required readings may not have enough information about the topic. You may use any recognized style manual, but you must use it consistently..

Do not use Wikipedia as an academic 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.** When grading your essays, I will be looking at three different elements: **Content (including Grammar), Style, and Research.** You will receive a grade in each of these areas, and these grades will then be averaged together for your final essay grade. **You can get help**

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from the Center for Academic Success/Academic Writing Center on the first floor of the Green Library.

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.

COURSE POLICIES

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 topic

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/~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.

EXTRA CREDIT

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Review a movie featuring the interaction of two or more religions interact or conflict and write a six paragraph reaction paper 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. The movie can be based on a real situation but should not be a documentary or a movie specifically about a religion or a religious figure. If in doubt about your selection, ask the instructor for approval. The extra credit paper is worth up to an extra 15points. All extra credit reports are due no later than July 30th

GLOBAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE

As a global learning course students will be expected to meet the following objectives through text readings, assignments and class discussions.

- Students will be able to engage the topics, drawing on diverse scholarly or cultural perspectives
- Students will be able to assess the ways in which global developments and the practice of religions interact
- Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to think through contemporary global religious issues critically and creatively.

COURSE CALENDAR (Provisional)

Module	Topic	Text (Required weekly Readings)
Week 1	Class introductions, introduction to the	Chapters 1 and 2

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	<p>course, reviewing and fully familiarizing ourselves with the course Syllabus. Topic: What is Religion and ways of Studying Religion.</p>	
Week 2	<p>The Sacred and the Holy</p> <p>Deity, Concepts of the Divine and Ultimate Reality</p>	Chapters 3 and 8
Week 3	<p><i>Sacred Symbol, Myth and Doctrine</i></p> <p><i>Sacred Ritual</i></p>	Chapters 4&5
Week 4	<i>Sacred Scripture</i>	Chapter 6
Week 5	<i>Society and the Sacred</i>	Chapter 7

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Week 6	Theodicy: Encountering Evil [Chapter 11