

## Summer A, 2016 - REL 2011 – U02A, #54599 - RELIGION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Tuesday—Thursday from 10:50 to 2:10 PM – Engr & Comp Sci 135

#### PROFESSOR INFORMATION



- **Instructor: Joseph Holbrook**
- Phone: [305-348-2186](tel:305-348-2186)
- GL150 Office hours: M-W, 12 NOON – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment.
- Please msg through blackboard before using email
- [jholb001@fiu.edu](mailto:jholb001@fiu.edu)
- Dedicated class Twitter: @REL\_FIU
- Dedicated class blog: <http://josenmiamireligion.blogspot.com/>

#### 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

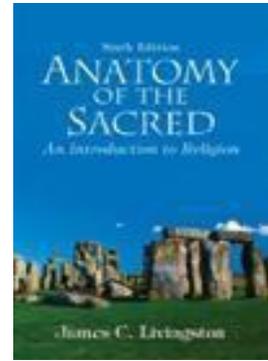
Students will be able to:

- 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 two times a week: Tuesday and Thursday from 10:50 A.M. to 2:10 P.M. 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. **Do not email or msg questions regarding grades and make-up work to the professor; you must physically go to the office hours to discuss grades and make-up or late work in person.** DO NOT EMAIL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AS EMAIL ATTACHMENTS!

### GORDON RULE REQUIREMENT

Although this is a Gordon Rule course, because it is also a short, 6-week course, students will be required to write an essay assignment and one revision. The essay should be at least 1,000 to 1,200 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

Because this is a short summer course, students will be required to submit only one essay, and then to submit a revision based on corrections and suggestions to the first essay. The student will choose between two options: submit an analysis of "The Case for Contamination" by Kwame Anthony Appiah or do a Site Visit and write about your experience. If you have already done both of these, you may do a new site visit to a different religion or speak with the professor about an alternative. **DO NOT TURN IN AN ESSAY WRITTEN FOR A PREVIOUS CLASS.** It will be considered self-plagiarism and will be awarded a grade of zero.

The essay will be turned into a Turnitin drop box on 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. **IMPORTANT! PLEASE, DO NOT SEND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AS EMAIL OR BLACKBOARD MESSAGE ATTACHMENTS.** They will get lost or immediately be deleted. All writing assignments **MUST BE** submitted in the appropriate drop box. If you are having difficulties, you are encouraged to meet with the professor for assistance.

Essay (due on June 1st ) The student choose to write about a site visit or will read the '*The Case for Contamination*' by Kwame Anthony Appiah and write an analytical essay of 1,000 to 1,200 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 10% of the final grade.

Essay Revision, (due on June 15<sup>th</sup>). Students who score 93 or higher on the first essay are not required to submit a revision. If they choose not to do a revision, they will receive the same grade for the revision as for the original essay. Students who score less than 93 on the essay are required to turn in a revision based on the highlights and comments on the *Grademark* feature in Turnitin. The Revision is worth an additional 10% of the final grade. The original essay and the revision average together for a total 20 percent of the final grade.

## Film Discussions

Five Online Forum Discussions: - The forum discussions are each worth 25 points each. The discussions will focus on the following four films: Black Robe (1991), LUTHER (2003), GANDHI (1982) and MALCOLM X (1992). Each discussion will focus on elements of religion and the sacred and comparison of the development of the main characters. The four online forum discussions together are worth a total of 20 percent of the final grade. The forum discussions **MUST** be turned in on time! No make-ups are allowed under any circumstances for late submissions.

## GROUP PRESENTATION

Students will give one **group presentation** (for an average of 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 40 points and is 10% of the final grade. If a student cannot attend of 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 15**. Other possible sources of extra credit include following the course twitter account, @REL\_FIU (only within the first week) and commenting at least 10 times on the course blog: <http://josenmiamireligion.blogspot.com>.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

#### **Late Papers**

Late papers. 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. Written forum or film discussions will not be accepted for any reason. **DO NOT SEND ESSAYS OR WRITTEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS AS EMAIL OR MSG ATTACHMENTS. THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE A GRADE UNLESS THEY ARE SUBMITTED ON TIME IN THE APPROPRIATE DROP BOX!**

#### **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 45 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.

*Current Events* news item: Students will be encouraged to bring in a current events news item to share with the class at least

once during the semester. Each current events new item **is worth 3 points** on the attendance and participation grade.

Students must read the proper textbook chapters on the weekend BEFORE the class discussion. There will be pop quizzes.

## GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Essay - (due by June 1)	100	10%
Essay Revision (due June 15)	100	10%
4 out of 5 Online forum Discussions	100	20%
Group Presentation (see schedule on BB)	40	10%
Participation & Attendance ( <i>Current Events</i> )	40	10%
12 (Chapter Tests	120	20%
FINAL EXAM	100	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- **SUPER important reminders: Course readings:** You are responsible to read the appropriate chapters from the textbook BEFORE class on Tuesday and to come to class prepared to discuss the material.
- **All written assignments** MUST BE submitted on time in the appropriate Blackboard drop box. DO NOT email your writing assignments to the professor as an email or Blackboard attachment; they will be immediately deleted.
- **You are responsible** to be aware of due dates, either through the course syllabus or the Blackboard Calendar. Do not ask the professor; look it up.
- **Office hours:** Please memorize the time and location of the professors office hours: M-W 12 noon to 1 pm in GL150 (first floor of the library). If that will not work for you, send him a Blackboard message requesting an appointment.

### MODULE 1 - The Study of Religion

#### *Week 1 (MAY 17-19)*

May 17 – Introductions, syllabus and organize groups. Chapter 1 “What is Religion?” p.1-14  
Discuss “Contamination”

May 19 -

Chapter 2 “Ways of Studying Religion” p.15-34; *Watch film: Black Robe.*

Quizzes 1 due on Thursday May 19 at midnight.

Quizzes 2 due on Saturday May 21 at midnight.

#### *Week 2 (May 24-May 26)*

May 24 – Chapter 3 “The Sacred and the Holy” p.35-52. *Discuss Appiah Essay*

Quiz 3 due on Tuesday, May 24 at midnight

“Black Robe” discussion due Wednesday night, May 25

May 26 – Chapter 4 “Sacred Symbols and Myths” p.53-73;

Quiz 4 due on Thursday, May 26 at midnight

### Memorial Day Weekend

### MODULE 2

#### *Week 3 (May 31-June 2)*

May 31 - *Group presentations:* Chapter 5 – “Sacred Ritual” p.74-95;

Quiz 5 due on Tuesday, May 31 at midnight.

“Appiah” forum discussion (300 words) due Wednesday night, June 1

June 2 - Chapter 6 – “Sacred Scripture” p.96-123; *Watch film: LUTHER*

Quiz 6 due on Thursday, June 2 at midnight.

REL2011 Essay due on Saturday, June 4 at midnight

#### *Week 4 (June 7-9)*

June 7 - *Group presentations:* Ch7 – “Society and the Sacred” p.124-150; *Film: Gandhi*

Quiz 7 due on Tuesday, June 7 at midnight.

“Luther” discussion due Wednesday night, June 8

June 9 – Ch8 – “Deity” p.151-182; Ch. 9 – “Cosmogony” p.183-210; *Finish Film: Gandhi*

Quiz 8 due on Thursday, June 9 at midnight.

Quiz 9 due on Friday, June 10 at midnight.

## MODULE 3

### *Week 5 (June 14-16)*

June 14 - *Group presentations*: Ch. 10 – “The Human Problem” p. 211-234; *film: Malcolm X (1992, 3hrs 11m.)*

Quizzes 10 due on Tuesday, June 14 at midnight.

June 16 – *Group presentations*: Ch11 – “Theodicy, Encountering Evil” p.235-258; Ch12 “Ethics” p. 259-286;

Quiz 11 due on Thursday night, June 16 at midnight.

Quiz 12 due on Friday night, June 17 at midnight.

ESSAY Revision due Saturday night June 18 at midnight

### *Week 6 (June 21 – June 23)*

June 21 – *finish group presentations* Ch. 13 – “Ways of Salvation”

All Extra Credits due on Monday, June 20

Quizzes 13 due on Tuesday, June 21 at midnight.

June 23 – Chapter 14; Chapter 15,

Optional Quizzes 14 & 15 due on Thursday, June 23 at midnight.

Forum discussion for Malcolm X due on Wednesday June 22

FINAL EXAM DUE ONLINE BY FRIDAY JUNE 24 AT 11:59 PM

\*ABSOLUTELY NO EXTRA CREDITS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 20 UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!