

REGIS UNIVERSITY
REGIS COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
RS 200 INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPRING 2009

SECTION RU05

T/R 8:00-9:15

LOYOLA 27

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION: Introduces the academic study of religion and develops an awareness of the nature of religion, the way it functions and its role in human existence. Highlights diversity of religious phenomena and universal human concerns.

INSTRUCTOR: Randolph F. Lumpp, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Regis College
Affiliate Faculty, School of Professional Studies

My Schools: Wheat Ridge High School (1956-59); Regis College (1959-60; Seattle University (1960-63, B.A., Philosophy); Marquette University (1963-65, M.A., Theology, 1968); University of Ottawa (Ontario), 1965-67, Ph.D., Religious Studies, 1975).

Some Areas of Special Interest: Philosophy of Religion; Catholic Tradition Studies; Religion, Culture and Media; World Religious Traditions; Native American Traditions.

Some Other Things I Enjoy: being a Boy Scout leader, flying airplanes, cooking, doing photography and listening to music (particularly jazz and classical).

Some Things I Believe About College Education:

- ◆ I believe going to college is a privilege, not a requirement and not a right.
- ◆ I believe in the Jesuit philosophy of education that has been to prepare people to be constructive agents and leaders in their communities.
- ◆ I believe that traditional undergraduate education is about growing up and getting one's head on straight for entering responsible adult roles in society and community.
- ◆ I believe that, no matter what one is doing, one ought to try to do one's best.

Office: Loyola 1A

Phone: 303-458-3511

E-MAIL: rlumpp@regis.edu

NOTE: Federal privacy regulations require that discussion of privileged information (e.g., grades) is allowed only through RegisNet. A RegisNet email account is necessary for use in this course.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 8:30-9:00 a.m.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays 7:30-8:00 a.m.

10:45-11:15 a.m.

Wednesdays 8:30-9:00a.m.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursdays 7:30-8:00 a.m.

10:45-11:15 a.m.

Other times by appointment

TEXTBOOKS:

Braswell, George W, Jr. *Understanding World Religions*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holzman, 1994.

Herling, Bradley L. *A Beginner's Guide to the Study of Religion*. New York: Continuum International, 2007.

A detailed schedule of classes, readings and other assignments will be posted on my Faculty Web Page at www.regis.edu

COURSEWORK AND EVALUATION:

The final grade in this course will be based on the following:

GRADE POINT SCORE SUMMARY:

<u>Attendance:</u>	20 %
<u>Supplemental Learning Activities:</u>	15 % project, retreat, service
<u>Class work/homework/quizzes/presentations</u>	20 % (NO MAKEUPS)
<u>Exams</u>	45 %

Final Grade Percentage Ranges:

A = EXCELLENT 93.0-100%; **A-** = 90.0-92.9%; **B+** = 88.0-89.9%; **B = GOOD** 82.0-87.9%; **B-** = 80.0-81.9%; **C+** = 78.0-79.9%; **C = ACCEPTABLE** 72.0-77.9%; **C-** = 70.0-71.9%; **D = MINIMAL** 65.0-69.9%; **F** = 64.9% or below

- If you must leave class before the end of the session, please take your belongings and do not reenter the class. Otherwise come prepared to stay for 75 minutes.
- If you are ill with something contagious, stay home. I appreciate being informed if you know you will be absent. If you cannot reach me by phone, leave a message on my voice mail or email.
- Attendance includes being **prepared** for class, **active** involvement in classroom activities and scheduled presentations.

COURSEWORK AND EVALUATION:

ATTENDANCE (20%) is expected and required at all class sessions. **Two (2) absences will be allowed without penalty.** (Athletes and others who will miss more than two classes due to required participation in GAMES or other approved and required University events should consider taking the course at another time.) The idea of free absences is to allow for the possibility of illness, death in the family or other unavoidable circumstance. After two absences, points will be deducted from your final point total for each additional absence beyond 2. Do not waste your free absences. You may need them if you have to pick up your parents at the airport or take your roommate to the hospital or go to traffic court, or....In the event of prolonged absence due to serious illness or some other serious cause, withdrawal from the course may be advised, or some other remedy may have to be worked out with the instructor. In any case, inform the instructor promptly about any such circumstances.

Attendance: There are 28 meetings. You may miss two (2) without penalty. After two absences, points will be deducted from your final point score for each additional absence. **(0-2 absences=20%; 3=15%; 4=10%; 5=5%; 6=0 points)**

SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING ACTIVITY: (10%):

IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Your choice and documentation of your signup must be submitted to Dr. Lumpf no later than **Tuesday, January 27.** Report any change in status of your selected activity.

Select one of the following: **Retreat, Service, or Research Project**

REPORT AND RESPOND FORMAT

RETREAT: You may choose to attend a Regis University Ministry sponsored spiritual retreat and afterward write a 1-2 page report of the retreat and your response the experience. Documentation signed by retreat leader must be submitted with the written report. Both are due at the time of the final exam. Obtain the retreat schedule and signup procedure from University Ministry, STC-200.

SERVICE: You may perform 10 hours of service learning or community learning and write a report on your learning experience. The first part of the written report should include information about the sponsoring organization, its mission and activities as well as your specific duties and activities. The second part of the written report should include your own response to the experience, particularly what you have learned. The written report should be submitted with verification of your service work from an appropriate agency supervisor.

- The Office of Service Learning has a list of appropriate sites AND DIRECTIONS ABOUT PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO GET REGISTERED WITH THE OSL AND IN THEIR COMPUTER. (www.regis.edu)
- FATHER WOODY SERVICE PROJECTS also offers a wide variety of appropriate opportunities. (www.regis.edu)

Details for working through the Office of Service Learning are on their web pages. **Failure to follow the specified procedures and/or the posted deadlines can result in a loss of points.**

RESEARCH PROJECT: You may choose to write a report that gives more extensive treatment to a topic related to the topics covered in the course (in addition to the short take-home reports associated with tests or supplemental learning). Topics must be cleared in advance with the instructor. A minimum of five (5) resources is required, three (3) of which must be print sources available in the DML. Proper MLA form is required. Final papers will be due at the time of the final exam. Deadlines for approval, sources list and outline will be discussed in class. It is highly recommended that you make use of the Regis College Writing Center. See notice at the end of this syllabus.

IN-CLASS EXERCISES OR QUIZZES (20%): Quizzes or other short or impromptu exercises on readings, lectures, videos, etc., may be given at any time. Home work assignments to be turned in at class may also be assigned. If you enter class after a timed quiz or exercise has begun, additional time will not be given. Quizzes may be used to take roll. There will be **no makeup** for quizzes or other such in-class exercises.

EXERCISES, QUIZZES AND FORMAT: Exercises or quizzes can include any or all of the following formats:

An essay or report on an assigned topic (take home). Topics will be discussed in class. These assignments are college-level compositions, prepared and evaluated according to criteria described in the syllabus. They must correctly follow MLA Style.

Objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching, etc.) testing knowledge of basic information in assigned material. There is no make up of missed quizzes.

Theory and Applications. Short answer essays on the theoretical aspects of the study of religion and application to the various items studied.

Take-home writing assignments: Topics related to course material will be assigned in class.

EXAMS (45%): There will be three (3) scheduled exams. They will usually have both in-class and take-home parts.

FORM FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (including take home parts of exams):

1. **Typewritten, double-spaced**, 1 inch margins on all sides; proper Standard American English grammar and spelling.
Font: New Times Roman or Courier or the equivalent, 10 or 12 point.
2. **Heading in upper LEFT-hand** corner of page 1 should include:

Your Name
RS 200 Section 5
Assignment Name
Date Submitted

Subsequent pages must include an upper-right-hand header with your last name and the page numeral: Smith 2

3. **Center TITLE** in caps one inch below heading on page 1. No title pages, folders, binders or extra pages, please.
STAPLE upper-left-hand corner.
4. **Sources:** ANY MATERIAL taken from someone else should be properly cited. Cite only sources actually used. Citing author and page parenthetically at the appropriate place in your discussion can do this: (Taylor 175).
A Complete list of WORKS CITED arranged alphabetically by the author's last name should follow directly after the body of your essay. Authority for form will be D. Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 4th ed. NOTE: The style REQUIRED here is MLA.

Four good reasons for citing your sources:

1. **Avoiding plagiarism:** “Plagiarize” comes from the Latin word for kidnapping. Do not kidnap someone’s ideas and present them as your own. This is basic honesty. Any plagiarized material submitted for this course will receive a failing grade.
2. Given the no plagiarism rule, there are also positive reasons for giving references to your sources. You let the reader know where she or he can find **more about your topic**. If you write about something worthwhile, it should encourage your reader to want to know more about it. In any case you need to make that information available.
3. Still more important is letting your reader know **what your presentation is based on**. It can make a big difference if you base your argument on Hillary Clinton or George W. Bush.
4. Most important of all and most difficult of all, is being able to tell the difference between what **you** really think and what **others** think. This is part of **critical thinking**. It is a very important part of a Regis education. It includes knowing why you think what you think and where it comes from—what it is based on.

INCOMPLETES for the course will be granted only upon request. Verbal requests must be confirmed in writing on the form available in the Dean’s Office to the instructor without delay. The written request must include a description of the work to be finished and a timetable for completion. The final arrangement will be subject to instructor approval.

REGIS WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center is a free resource for Regis College undergraduates. All writers, no matter how proficient they are, benefit from working with a writing consultant. Our consultants are undergraduates who are recommended by faculty, pass a test, and take a class about writing issues and how to work with other writers. They can help you at any point in your writing process, from brainstorming for ideas to organizing a draft to polishing the final version. You get immediate and personal feedback about your writing as well as answers to your questions. Appointments are recommended. Drop by the Writing Center in Loyola 1 or call (303) 458-4039 for more information.

EQUAL ACCESS TO CLASSES AND LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Equal access to education means equal opportunity to learn. If you have a documented disability requiring academic adjustments for this course, please contact

**Disability Services.
(Call for Fall 2004 location.)
Telephone 303-458-4941
Email: disability@regis.edu**

Disability Services will review your documents with you and help determine appropriate, reasonable accommodations. Following your meeting, please make an appointment with your instructor to discuss your accommodation request in light of course requirements. You may self-disclose and request an academic adjustment any time during the semester. Early attention to the matter is strongly recommended. Accommodations are not applied retroactively.

Course Withdrawal Policy: Students are expected to know and observe the published deadlines for (a) dropping the course and (b) withdrawing from the course. These deadlines are published on the University’s Academic Calendar, which is available in the Bulletin, the course schedule and is in the Dean’s Office. Please observe the following dates: **Last Day to Drop the Course: _____, 2008; Last Day to Withdraw from the Course (no refund): _____, 2008. THESE DEADLINES ARE NOT FLEXIBLE.**

**DEW KNOT TRUSSED YORE CHECQUER
TWO FINED AWL YORE MISS STEAKS**