

FIU Department of Religious Studies

Religion in America

REL 3120 Section 1

Spring 2011

Course Description

This course will take a closer look at how various religions have helped shape American life. In this course we will trace the historical development and influence of religion in the United States and particularly its influence on American culture. We will discuss religions that were developed or redeveloped here in the United States. This course will involve three exams, a journal, and a term paper.

Course Objectives

- Strong focus on World Religions in America
 - Christian Science, Theosophy, New Thought, The Church of Scientology, Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Latter Day Saint, Native American Religions, Nature Religions
- Discover the history, teachings, and practices of various religions that have shaped American culture
- Appreciate the diversity and similarities among different religions and be able to evaluate and describe the context, influence, and structure of these religious communities within American society.

Required Reading

Textbook

- *World Religions in America* by Jacob Neusner – 4th Edition

Instructor Information

Name	Miss Jennell Botello
Class Hours	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm
Class Room	PCA 171
Email	jbotel01@fiu.edu
Turnitin.com	<u>Class ID #:</u> 3739169 <u>Class Password:</u> religion11

All turnitin assignments are due at 11:59pm on the due date

*****ABSOLUTELY NO RECORDING DEVICES/MEDIA
OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED*****

Course Requirements

Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Test 3	20%
Journal	15%
Term Paper	15%
Attendance	10%

Grading Scale

93-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F
90-92	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

Course Policies

Test 1

The first test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The third test is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the second exam: Native American Religions, Neopaganism and Witchcraft.

*****Bring a number 2 pencil*****

*****No Make Ups*****

Test 2

The second test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The second test is non-cumulative and will cover material covered after the first exam: Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Latter Day Saints.

*****Bring a number 2 pencil*****

*****No Make Ups*****

Test 3

The third test (20%) will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true and false questions, and a matching section. The test focuses on the first part of the semester, which will be Christian Science, Theosophy, New Thought, and the Church of Scientology.

*****Bring a number 2 pencil*****

*****No Make Ups*****

Journal

Students will turn in a journal worth (15%) of the overall grade. The journal is an assignment in which the student report on current events in the news that involve religion and the American society. The student will be required to have ten entries by the end of the semester; 3 for January, 3 for February, and 4 for March. The student will cut out or

print the article, place it inside a binder, and write a two page summary and reflection about the article. The journal entries must be typed and double spaced. The journals will be collected towards the end of the semester.

Term Paper

Students will turn in a term paper worth (15%) of the overall grade. The term paper is a research assignment on a topic relating to the course that particularly interests the student. The topic for the paper must receive the approval of the instructor before it is submitted. The term paper must be a minimum of 8 pages and no more than 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography or works cited page and the cover page. This paper is formal and must be typed, *not hand-written*, in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The margins should be 1-inch on all sides. *APA, MLA, and Chicago Manual Style* will be accepted. According to the style of choice, the student is advised to include footnotes or endnotes. The students will be emailed more detailed instructions during the first week of class. This paper will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Attendance

Attendance is (10%) of the student's grade. The student is allowed two absences for the semester without being penalized. Any absence after the two allowed ones will result in points being subtracted from the student's final grade. Attendance is strongly advised since the professor uses outside knowledge and material to supplement the book and make the lectures more complete. The attendance grade also includes excessive lateness and conduct in class. Those students who talk excessively, constantly enter and leave the classroom due to phone calls, text message continuously, listen to their ipods during lectures, and play on their laptops during class time will have their attendance score marked down.

*****Cell phones must be set to silent mode*****

Extra Credit (Lecture Review)

Students will have the opportunity to attend one of the lectures sponsored by the Religious Studies Department and write a 2 page reflection paper on the event. The student is able to earn a total of 5 points to their lowest grade. This assignment will also be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Syllabus

1. [Monday – January 10] Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements
2. [Wednesday – January 12] Native American Religions
Readings for This Class: Chapter 1
3. [Friday – January 14] Native American Religions
4. [Monday – January 17] **Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)**

5. [Wednesday – January 19] American Neopaganism and Witchcraft
Readings for This Class: Chapter 15
6. [Friday – January 21] American Neopaganism and Witchcraft
7. [Monday – January 24] American Neopaganism and Witchcraft
8. [Wednesday – January 26] American Neopaganism and Witchcraft
9. [Friday – January 28] American Neopaganism and Witchcraft
10. [Monday – January 31] **Test 1**
11. [Wednesday – February 2] Seventh-Day Adventists
Readings for This Class: Chapter 12
12. [Friday – February 4] Seventh-Day Adventists
13. [Monday – February 7] Seventh-Day Adventists
14. [Wednesday – February 9] Seventh-Day Adventists
15. [Friday – February 11] Seventh-Day Adventists
16. [Monday – February 14] Jehovah’s Witnesses
Readings for This Class: Chapter 12
17. [Wednesday – February 16] Jehovah’s Witnesses
18. [Friday – February 18] Jehovah’s Witnesses
19. [Monday – February 21] Jehovah’s Witnesses
20. [Wednesday – February 23] Jehovah’s Witnesses
21. [Friday – February 25] The Latter Day Saints
Readings for This Class: Chapter 17
22. [Monday – February 28] The Latter Day Saints
23. [Wednesday – March 2] The Latter Day Saints
24. [Friday – March 4] The Latter Day Saints
25. [Monday – March 7] **Test 2**
26. [Wednesday – March 9] *Movie*

27. [Friday – March 11] *Movie*
28. [Monday – March 14] **Spring Break**
29. [Wednesday – March 16] **Spring Break**
30. [Friday – March 18] **Spring Break**
31. [Monday – March 21] Christian Science
Readings for This Class: Chapter 13
32. [Wednesday – March 23] Christian Science
33. [Friday – March 25] Christian Science
34. [Monday – March 28] Christian Science
35. [Wednesday – March 30] Christian Science
36. [Friday – April 1] New Thought
Readings for This Class: Chapter 13
Journals Due
37. [Monday – April 4] New Thought
38. [Wednesday – April 6] New Thought
39. [Friday – April 8] New Thought
40. [Monday – April 11] New Thought
41. [Wednesday – April 13] The Church of Scientology
Readings for This Class: Chapter 14
42. [Friday – April 15] The Church of Scientology
Term Papers Due
43. [Monday – April 18] The Church of Scientology
44. [Wednesday – April 20] The Church of Scientology
45. [Friday – April 22] The Church of Scientology
Extra Credits Due
46. [Monday – April 25] **Final Exam / 12:00pm – 2:00pm / PCA 171**

Cheating and Plagiarism

1. Students found cheating will be given a 0 for the assignment followed by disciplinary actions
2. Students found cheating on an exam will be given a 0 for the test
3. Students that are caught cheating repeatedly will be given an F for the class followed by disciplinary action
4. Students found plagiarizing will be given a 0 for the assignment.
5. If the student has plagiarized the entire work then the student will be given a grade of F for the class followed by disciplinary actions
6. It is recommended to look over the University's Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm>

Additional Information

1. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of all papers submitted to the instructor.
2. MLA, APA, and Chicago writing styles are accepted for the written assignments.
3. The University's last day to drop courses or withdraw without incurring a financial liability is **Tuesday January 18.**
4. Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund of tuition is **Friday February 4**
5. Deadline to drop a course with a DR grade is **Friday March 4**