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  
  o 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 Class ID #: 3739169 Class Password: religion11

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

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

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Course Requirements

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
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<td>Test 3</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>93-100</th>
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<th>77-79</th>
<th>67-69</th>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>90-92</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D-</td>
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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](http://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](http://www.turnitin.com).

**Syllabus**

2. [Wednesday – January 12] Native American Religions
   Readings for This Class: Chapter 1
3. [Friday – January 14] Native American Religions
   Readings for This Class: Chapter 15


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


14. [Wednesday – February 9] Seventh-Day Adventists

15. [Friday – February 11] Seventh-Day Adventists

    Readings for This Class: Chapter 12

17. [Wednesday – February 16] Jehovah’s Witnesses

18. [Friday – February 18] 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


29. [Wednesday – March 16] Spring Break

30. [Friday – March 18] Spring Break

   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


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](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**.