

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
REL 2011 INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION
Fall 2021

Contact Information:

Instructor: Alfonso Matas
Office Location: DM 304
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: use CANVAS Inbox

Meeting location: DM 110
Meeting time: Th 6:30 PM – 9:05 PM

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the origins, beliefs, and contemporary practices of the world's religions: Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Taoism, Shinto, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Confucianism. Emphasis is given to the believers' own accounts of their religion and its practice in the contemporary world.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the interaction between religions and culture, history, ecology, economics, and politics.
2. Evaluate the ways in which culture and group differences such as race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status contribute to shaping and interpreting belief systems.
3. Analyze how religion relates to other fields of study, such as science, philosophy, ethics, environment, and the creative arts.
4. Apply knowledge of major religions to contemporary religious issues, such as tolerance, diversity, pluralism, and interfaith dialogue.
5. Interpret religious content from a variety of sources and perspectives, including sacred texts and contemporary media.

Required Course Material:

Revel: You are required to purchase the **Revel** version of **Fisher and Rinehart, *Living Religions*, 10e** for this course. I will assign reading, writing, and other homework activities in Revel.

While access to Revel is required, the printed version of this text is optional - see purchasing options below. There are two ways to purchase Revel access.

Choose the option that works best for you:

Option #1: Purchase a Revel access code from the campus bookstore.

Option #2: Online Instant Access: If you decide not to purchase Revel from the bookstore, you can purchase Revel access online. You will see this as an option after clicking on the course invite link listed below.

When you register (via access code or online instant access), you also have the option of adding the print upgrade for \$19.95 extra (no shipping cost).

Follow these steps to get started or watch a short video

(www.pearsonhighered.com/Revel/students/registration) on how to register for Revel:

1. Enter your Course Invite Link in your web browser. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome, FireFox, or Safari.

COURSE INVITE LINK: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/XXXXXXXX>

2. If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you'll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you've signed in or created your Pearson Account, you'll immediately be directed to your Revel account. Here you'll see your course appear.

3. To access Revel throughout the semester log onto <http://console.pearson.com>. Make sure to bookmark this URL and NOT the course invite link. Remember to always use the same username and password to logon.

If you encounter any issues, support materials are available at www.pearsonhighered.com/Revel/students/support/index.html, including a call in number: 855-875-1801.

Access to a computer or mobile electronic device (tablet or smartphone) with internet access is required to complete your Revel assignments. Please let me know if you need information on computers available for use on campus.

Grading and Assessments:

25 percent	Revel quiz assignments (chapter quizzes)
20 percent	Mid-term Exam -essay. 3-6 pages (total). Essay format
5 percent	One-page Preliminary Site Visit Report
20 percent	Final project – Site Visit Report 6-8 pages.
25 percent	Final exam – multiple choice
5 percent	Attendance

Exams: Exams are based on class lectures, discussions, and textbook chapters.

Revel assignments (reading and quizzes): You are required to complete all Revel assignments before the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted, so plan accordingly.

*See below for tips on using Revel to succeed in this course.

Attendance and in class participation is required: Your attendance score is calculated by the number of times you attend class, divided by total class meetings. It is your responsibility to make sure you are signed in for attendance. Attendance will be taken though an electronic attendance solution called [FIU Check-in](#).

If you leave class early or arrive to class late, it will be reflected in your attendance score. Your attendance and your class contributions will be considered for the final grade.

5 Tips for Using Revel to Succeed in This Course

1. Quizzes can help you learn more as you read.
2. Track your performance in Revel throughout the semester.
3. Highlighting important sections in the chapter will allow you to easily refer to them later on in the semester.
4. You may want to try listening to the audio while you read.
5. If you forget your login information, go to the [Forgot Username or Password](#) link to retrieve your username or reset your password. Then, enter your email address and click continue. Check your email account for an email with the subject, "Pearson Username/Password Request." The message will contain all of the usernames that are found for that email address. Choose one account to use with Revel.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students will have one week to submit assignments to TURNITIN.COM (ON CANVAS). Due dates will be posted on the week's assignments are due. Papers submitted **any time within one week** after the first week dates will (that is, the second week) be deducted **10 points**; any time during the week after that (the third week) **20 points. No paper will be accepted after the third week** (see dates below).

This late paper policy does not apply to the final exam. Final exams will be submitted during the announced submission period and will not be accepted after that.

GET THE RECEIPT: Students should print the **Turnitin.com receipt** that verifies the date and the hour you they submitted their work. Receipts are essential to settle disputes as to when and whether a paper was submitted (and avoid possible late submission point deductions).

All written work will be submitted through TURNITIN.COM (midterm, and site visit).

All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in a "normal" (12 pt) size font (written work submitted in *large* font will not be acceptable); and any quotations should follow the manual of style or the standard style recommended by FIU.

This course may also fulfill the **Critical Inquiry** requirement of the FIU core curriculum if the student earns a grade of "C" or higher. A "C-" or lower grade will **not** satisfy the Critical Inquiry requirement.

Grades will be posted **10 days after the last due date** of the week papers are submitted. Please do not ask for your grade before the ten days are up.

Quotations from internet sources (Wikipedia, Encarta, and the like) **will not be accepted**. All source quotations must be from the assigned textbooks.

TEXTBOOK

Required textbook: Living Religions, eBook

Also available as a hard copy: Living Religions 10th Ed., Mary Pat Fisher. Pearson Prentice Hall. ISBN-13 – 9780134169248.

Class Schedule:

Revel quizzes will be due after we cover the chapter in class. The following schedule is tentative; please see your Revel assignment calendar for all assignment due dates.

Week	Day	Date	Out-of-class Assignments (Revel)	In-class Focus
1	Th	8/26	Register for Revel using the course invite link listed at the top of this syllabus. Read Chapter 1 before class meeting	Cover Syllabus Revel Registration
1	Th	8/26	Introduction: Religious Responses	Chapter 1: Religious Responses

			<p>1.1: Attempts to Define Religion 1.2: Why Are There Religions? 1.3: Understandings of Ultimate Reality 1.4: Ritual, Symbol, and Myth 1.5: Absolutist and Liberal Responses to Modernity 1.6: The Encounter between Science and Religion 1.7: Women in Religions 1.8: Negative Aspects of Organized Religion 1.9: Lenses for Studying Religions Religion: An Object to Be Studied Review: Religious Responses Quiz 1 due Wed 9/1</p>	
2	Th	9/2	<p>Chapter 2: Introduction: Indigenous Sacred Ways 2.2: Cultural Diversity 2.3: The Circle of Right Relationships Learning to protect the environment 2.4: Spiritual Specialists 2.5: Group Observances 2.6: Globalization 2.7: Development Issues Indigenous Sacred Ways: Religion Related to Ancestors and Place Quiz 2 due 9/8</p>	Chapter 2: Indigenous Sacred Ways
3	Th	9/9	<p>Chapter 3: Introduction: Hinduism 3.1: Philosophical and Metaphysical Origins 3.2: Theistic Foundations 3.3: Devotional Traditions 3.4: Major Philosophical Traditions 3.5: The Hindu Way of Life 3.6: Hinduism in the Modern World Hinduism: The Countless Faces of the Divine Quiz 3 due Wed 9/15</p>	Chapter 3: Hinduism
4	Th	9/16	<p>Chapter 3: Introduction: Jainism 4.1: The Tirthankaras and Ascetic Orders 4.2: Freeing the Soul: The Ethical Pillars Avoiding Karma and Liberating One's Soul</p>	Chapter 4: Jainism

			4.3: Spiritual Practices 4.4: World Jainism Jainism: Another Tradition from Mother India	
4	Th	9/16	Chapter 5: Introduction: Buddhism 5.1: The Life and Legend of the Buddha 5.2: The Dharma Fundamental Teachings of the Buddha 5.3: The Spread of Buddhism 5.4: Mahayana in East Asia 5.5: Vajrayana: The Indestructible Path 5.6: Buddhist Festivals Quiz 4 due Wed 9/22	Chapter 5: Buddhism
5	Th	9/23	5.7: Buddhism in the West 5.8: Socially Engaged Buddhism Buddhism: The Interconnectedness of Life	
6	Th	9/30	Chapter 6: Introduction: Daoism and Confucianism 6.1: Ancient Traditions 6.2: Daoism—The Way of Nature and Immortality 6.3: Popular Religion and Organized Daoism 6.4: Daoism Today Daoism in China and the West 6.5: Confucianism—The Practice of Virtue 6.6: Confucianism after Confucius 6.7: Confucianism in the Modern World Quiz 5 Due Wed 9/29 Quiz 6 Due Wed 9/29 Daoism and Confucianism: Coexisting and Complementary Value Systems	Chapter 6: Daoism and Confucianism
6	Th	9/30	Chapter 7: Introduction: Shinto 7.1: The Roots of "Shinto" Purification and Belief 7.2: Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian Influences 7.3: State Shinto 7.4: "Sect Shinto"	Chapter 7: Shinto

			7.5: Shinto Today Shinto: Veneration and Worship	
6	Th	9/30	Chapter 7a: Introduction: Zoroastrianism 7a.1: Zarathustra's Mission Charismatic Leadership 7a.2: Spread of Zoroastrian Beliefs 7a.3: Zoroastrian Teachings 7a.4: Zoroastrianism Today Zoroastrianism: A Bridge Between Asian and Western Religions Quizzes 7 and 7a Due 10/6	Chapter 7a: Zoroastrianism
7	Th	10/7	Chapter 8: Introduction: Judaism 8.1: Biblical and Rabbinic Judaism Covenants 8.2: Evolving Judaism 8.3: Torah 8.4: Sacred Practices 8.5: Holy Days 8.6: Contemporary Judaism Judaism: An Evolving Tradition Quiz 8 Due 10/13	Chapter 8: Judaism
8	Th	10/14	Midterm Exam Due 10/14 Chapter 9: Introduction: Christianity 9.1: The Christian Bible 9.2: The Life and Teachings of Jesus 9.3: The Early Church 9.4: Church Administration 9.5: Reform Efforts	Chapter 9: Christianity
9	Th	10/21	Roots of the Reformations 9.6: The Orthodox World Today 9.7: Central Beliefs in Contemporary Christianity 9.8: Sacred Practices 9.9: Contemporary Trends Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself	
10	Th	10/28	Quiz 9 Due Wed 27	
10	Th	10/28	Preliminary Site Visit Report Due 10/28 Chapter 10: Introduction: Islam 10.1: Pre-Islamic Arabia 10.2: The Prophet Muhammad 10.3: The Qur'an 10.4: The Central Teachings 10.5: The Five Pillars	Chapter 10: Islam
11	Th	11/13	10.6: Sunni and Shi'a	

			<p>The Possibility of Peace 10.7: Shari'ah: Islamic Law and Ethics 10.8: Sufism 10.9: The Development of Islam 10.10: Relationships with the West 10.11: Muslim Resurgence Islam: Muhammad as the Restorer of One True Religion Quiz 10 Due 11/17</p>	
12	Th	11/18	<p>Final Project – Site Visit Report Due 11/28 Chapter 11: Introduction: Sikhism 11.1: Guru Nanak 11.2: The Succession of Gurus 11.3: Sikh Rule and India's Independence Movement 11.4: Central Beliefs Sikhism Misunderstood 11.5: Sacred Practices 11.6: Sikhism Today Sikhism: Disciples, Students, and Seekers of Truth</p>	Chapter 11: Sikhism
12	Th	11/18	<p>Chapter 12: Introduction: New Religious Movements 12.1: Social Context of New Religious Movements 12.2: Charismatic Leadership 12.3: Offshoots of Older Religions 12.4: Combinations of Older Religions 12.5: Universalism Human Rights and Interfaith Dialogue 12.6: Social Trends 12.7: Opposition to New Religious Movements 12.8: Will New Religious Movements Last? New Religious Movements: The Book of Mormon Quiz 11 Due 12/1</p>	Chapter 12: New Religious Movements
13	Th	12/2	<p>Chapter 13: Introduction: Religion in the Twenty-First Century 13.1: Globalization</p>	Chapter 13: Religion in the Twenty-First Century

			<p>Globalized Religion 13.2: Secularism 13.3: Religious Pluralism 13.4: Religion in Politics 13.5: Interfaith Movement 13.6: Religion and Social Issues 13.7: Religion and Materialism 13.8: Religion and the Future of Humanity Religion in the Twenty-First Century: Its Impact Now and in the Future Religion in the Twenty-First Century See Revel/Canvas assignment calendar for specific assignment details, including due date and time. Quizzes Chapter 12 & 13 due 12/3 Final Exam – multiple choice format 12/7</p>	
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