



Syllabus

REL 3027 RVAA Meditation and the Mystical Traditions

Fully Online

Summer A: May 9, 2022 - June 18, 2022

Instructor Information Table



Daniel Alvarez

Instructor Information

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Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

General Information

Course Description and Purpose

The faculty of the Department of Religious Studies has developed this course, with each professor lecturing on meditation and mysticism in his or her area of religious specialization.

The course will examine meditation and mysticism within each of the major world religions, as well as within some indigenous religions utilizing narrated PowerPoint presentations, the Carmody textbook, the

Tucker textbook, and a variety of readings and videos.

Students will be tested on this material through:

- Time-restricted quizzes – 13 in total
- Midterm Exam (Objective and Essay portions)
- Final Exam (Exam (Objective and Essay portions)
- Short Response Assignments

Summer Sections of this Course: Please note that this course is a 15-week semester compressed into 6 weeks. Time management and organizational skills is key to successfully completing this course with minimal stress. Plan your weeks strategically, in order to complete assignments by their respective due dates.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the basic history, development, and belief system of various religious traditions.
2. Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.
3. Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols.
4. Evaluate their own religious views in regards to other cultures and paradigms of religious thought.
5. Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
6. Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
7. Perform field research to better understand a particular religious community.

Important Information

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

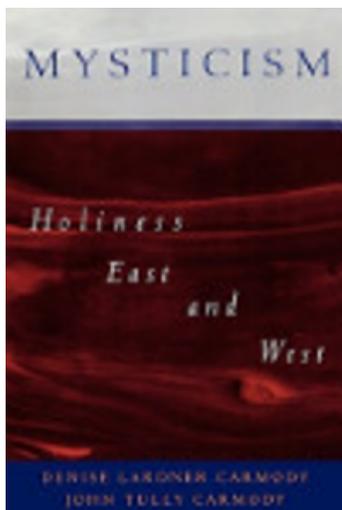
- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/) [\(https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/\)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook and Course Materials

Textbook Table



Mysticism (Required)

Denise Lardner Carmody, John Tully Carmody, John Carmody

Oxford University Press, USA, Dec-1995

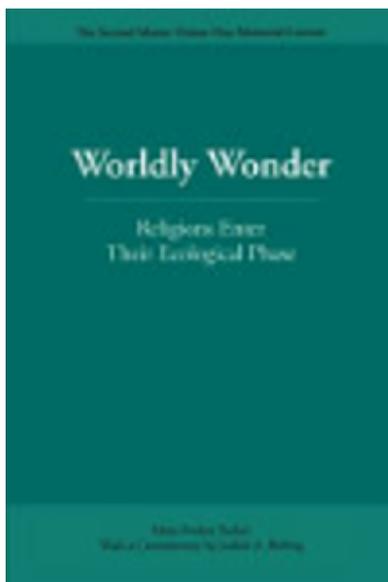
Dec-1995

0195088190

9780195088199

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001) (<http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001>).

Textbook Table



Worldly Wonder (Required)

Mary Evelyn Tucker

Open Court Publishing, Dec-2002

Dec-2002

0812695291

9780812695298

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001) (<http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001>).

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;

- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial \(https://vimeo.com/canvaslms/212en\)](https://vimeo.com/canvaslms/212en) or [Canvas Guide \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Assessments (General Info)

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Canvas Help Team \(https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/\)](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/).

Quizzes (20%)

A time-restricted, multiple-choice quiz will be given on each module's religious concept. The questions in the quizzes will draw from the weekly Modules, including audio lectures and assigned readings.

Quiz Availability: Open from Monday, 12:00AM to Sunday, 11:59PM unless otherwise indicated (see Course Calendar for specific dates.)

Quiz Duration: Students will have 20 minutes to answer 10 multiple-choice questions.

Quiz Attempts: Quizzes may be attempted twice. The highest of the two attempts will count towards the student's final grade. It is not mandatory to take each quiz twice.

Quiz Resets: Please limit quiz reset requests to instances when technical issues compromised both quiz attempts. The second attempt is meant to be a “backup” attempt for situations where the first attempt was not completed successfully.

Reopening quizzes after the due date has passed will require verifiable documentation.

The correct answers for quizzes will not be released to students. Students will be able to see submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. For more information, please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

Exams (60%)

Exam 1 (30% of overall grade) and Exam 2 (30% of overall grade) consist of both objective and essay portions. The objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 are both online, time-restricted examinations. These are in the Assessments area in Canvas.

Students will have only one attempt to complete the objective portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2, unlike the quizzes. Please make note of this important difference.

The essay prompts for the exams will become available in the Assessment area during the exam availability period. **The essay portions of these exams must be submitted via Canvas.** See the Assignments content area for essay topics.

The essay portions of Exam 1 and Exam 2 should each be approximately 500-750 words long.

Short-Response Assignments (20%)

Note: students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.

There will be ten (10) short written response assignments in this course. However, **only four (4) of these are required to be completed.** At the end of the course, only the 4 highest scores of the 10 assignments will be factored into your final grade in the class. The assignments will become available under the Assignments area according to the course calendar dates.

Assignments will become available on Monday, 12:00AM and will close on Sunday, 11:59PM. Submit your work directly in Canvas under the Assignments area. See course calendar for assignment availability.

Your written responses should demonstrate that you have done the readings and have reviewed the Modules.

Each assignment will have specific instructions. You need not agree with all or any claims made in the course material, but you should be able to explain the basis of your agreements and/or disagreements. Some of the assignments require longer responses than others; most can be easily answered in less than 2 paragraphs.

Keep electronic and paper copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com electronic receipt (confirmation of assignment submission) until you have received your final grade for the course.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	13	10	130	25%
Objective Exams	2	50	100	25%
Essay Exams	2	50	100	25%
Short-Response Assignments	4	100	400	25%
Total	21	N/A	730	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

✓ [Module 0 | Getting Started](#)

✓ [Week 1](#)

✓ [Week 2](#)

✓ [Week 3](#)

✓ [Week 4](#)

✓ [Week 5](#)

✓ [Week 6](#)

✓ [Student Resources](#)

Weekly Tasks

Date

Tasks

Week 1

Before you start the course: Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course deadlines and assignment details. Use the course calendar below to navigate through the course's contents.

Topic: Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism in World Religions

View:

- Dr. Northup: *Introduction to Meditation and Mysticism*
- Dr. Huchingson: *The Hardware of Mysticism* (all presentations are found under PowerPoints in Modules)

Read:

- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 1
- Nancy Murphy, "Whatever happened to the Soul?" under Modules
- James Ashbrook and Carol Rausch Albright, "The Humanizing Brain: An Introduction," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*: vol. 34, no. 1, March, 1999, pages 7-43. Full-text available online from the Florida International University Library (go to Catalogue on Library Homepage, select Journal Title, enter *Zygon*, and then select March 1999 from the list of *Zygon* issues).

Due via Assignments

A1 - Hardware of Mysticism Available Monday- Sunday

Date

Tasks

Take:

- Quiz 1: Available Monday- Sunday

Topic: Mysticism in African and Afro-Caribbean Religions

View:

Dr. Rey: *Mysticism in Africa and the Afro-Caribbean*

Read:

- Leslie Desmangles, *The Faces of the Gods*, (in Modules)
- Dominique Zahan, "Reflections on African Spirituality" (in Modules)
- Mary Ann Clark, *Santería: Correcting the Myths and Uncovering the Realities of a Growing Religion*, chapter 7. Full text available through **Netlibrary**.

Due via Assignments:

A2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism - Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

Quiz 2: Available Monday- Sunday

Date**Tasks**

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism among Native Americans

View:

Dr. Huchingson: *Meditation and Mysticism Among Native Americans*, I & II.

Read:

- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 8
- William A. Young, *Quest for Harmony: Native American Spiritual Traditions*, chapters 1, 4, 5. Full text available through **Netlibrary**. Or via Modules

Due via Assignments:

Week 2

A3 - Native American – Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

Quiz 3: Available Monday- Sunday

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Indian Religions

View:

Dr. Katz: *Meditation and Mysticism in Theistic Hinduism*, I-III

Read:

Mysticism: Holiness East and West, Chapter 2

Take:

Quiz 4: Available Monday- Sunday

Date**Tasks**

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Daoism and Chinese Religions

View: Dr. Heine: *Meditation and Mysticism in Chinese Religions*

Read: *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 4

Due via Assignments:

A4 – Daoism- Available Monday- Sunday

(You must do four – how many have you done so far?)

Take:

Quiz 5: Available Monday- Sunday

Week 3

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism / Zen Buddhism

View: Dr. Heine: *Intro to Meditation and Mysticism in Buddhism, Meditation and Mysticism in Zen*

Read: *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 3

Due via Assignments:

A5 - Zen Mysticism Readings and Questions - Available Monday- Sunday

How many of the required four have you done?

Take:

Quiz 6: Available Monday- Sunday

Date

Tasks

Midterm (Exam 1)

Midterm Available Monday - Sunday

Take both parts: Objective and Essay

Topics:

- Mysticism in Judaism
- Sephardic Judaism
- Hasidic Judaism

View:

- Dr. Zohar: *Mysticism in Judaism and Sephardic Judaism*
- Dr. Stier: *Hasidic Judaism*

Read: *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 5

Week 4

15 short "Additional Essays on Hasidism" by Immy Humes, which can be found **here**.

These essays supplement the highly recommended documentary, "A Life Apart" (see **here**).

Note: There is one error in the readings: In the essay titled "Inside the Community: A Holy Life," the author translates the Hebrew acronym for Chabad as "Wisdom, Learning, and Faith." The acronym actually stands for "Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding." Please make a note of this.

Due via Assignments:

A6 – Hasidic – Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

- Quiz 7: Available Monday- Sunday
- Quiz 8: Available Monday- Sunday

Date**Tasks**

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Early Christianity

View:

Dr. Larson: *Mysticism in Early Christianity*, I & II

Read:

- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 6
- Gregory of Nyssa, *Homily 6, On the Beatitudes* (pp. 90-91). Full text available through **Netlibrary**.

Due via Assignments

A7 - Early Christianity Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

Quiz 9: Available Monday- Sunday

Week 5

Topic: Mysticism in Catholicism & Protestantism

View:

- Dr. Gudorf., *Meditation and Mysticism in Catholicism*
- *Prof. Alvarez: Mysticism in Protestantism*

Read:

- Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (pp. 25-42). Full text available through **Netlibrary**.
- Jonathan Edwards, *A Divine and Supernatural Light*, pp. 439-451. Full text available through **Google Books**- also available under Modules

Due via Assignments

- A8 - Christian Mystic - Available Monday- Sunday

Take:

- Quiz 10: Available Monday- Sunday
- Quiz 11: Available Monday- Sunday

Date**Tasks**

*Note, this week is shorter than the rest of the weeks because Summer A semester ends on Friday

Topic: Meditation and Mysticism in Islam & Mysticism in Emerging Nature Religions

View: Dr. Musa: *Meditation and Mysticism in Islam*
Dr. Bauman: *Nature Mysticism*

Read:

- *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, Chapter 7
- "Mystical Islam and Sufi Brotherhoods" in *Islam: An Introduction* by Annemarie Schimmel; 1992 (available [here](#))
- "What is Tasawwuf (Sufism)?" An Anonymous Persian Poem – translated by A. A. Godlas (available [here](#))
- "The Chapter on Dhikr" from *at-Tarhib wa at-Tarhib*, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani , (available [here](#)) Mary Tucker, *Worldly Wonder*, pp. 1-54

Week 6**Due via Assignments:**

- A9 - Protestant Mysticism - Available Monday- Friday
- A10 - Islamic Assignment – Available Monday- Saturday

Take:

Quiz 12: Available Monday- Friday

Quiz 13: Available Monday- Friday

Final (Exam 2)

Final -Exam 2: Objective- Available Monday – Friday

Final -Exam 2: Essay: Available Monday – Friday

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
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Date	Details	Due
Sun May 22, 2022	 Quiz 2: African and Afro-Caribbean Religions	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750921	
	 Quiz 3: Native Americans	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750913	
	 Quiz 4: Indian Religions	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750911	
	 Quiz 5: Daoism and Chinese Religions	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750917	
	 Assignment 1 - Hardware of Mysticism	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750924	
 Assignment 2 - African and Afro Caribbean Mysticism	due by 11:59pm	
https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750925		
 Assignment 3 - Native American	due by 11:59pm	
https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750927		
 Assignment 4 - Daoism	due by 11:59pm	
https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750928		
 Quiz 1: Introduction	due by 11:59pm	
https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750918		
Sun May 29, 2022	 Assignment 5 - Zen Mysticism	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750929	
	 Midterm Essay Summer 2020	due by 11:59pm
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750935	
 Midterm Exam - Objective	due by 11:59pm	
https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750910		

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jun 5, 2022	 <u>Quiz 6: Buddhism/ Zen Buddhism</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750914)</u>	
	 <u>Quiz 7: Judaism and Sephardic Judaism</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750920)</u>	
	 <u>Quiz 8: Hasidic Judaism</u>	due by 11:59pm
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750908)</u>		
 <u>Quiz 9: Christianity</u>	due by 11:59pm	
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750919)</u>		
 <u>Assignment 6 - Hasidic Judaism</u>	due by 11:59pm	
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750930)</u>		
 <u>Assignment 7 - Early Christianity</u>	due by 11:59pm	
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750931)</u>		
 <u>Quiz 10: Catholicism</u>	due by 11:59pm	
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750916)</u>		
Sun Jun 12, 2022	 <u>Assignment 8 - Christian Mystic</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750932)</u>	
	 <u>Quiz 11: Protestantism</u>	due by 11:59pm
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750915)</u>		
Fri Jun 17, 2022	 <u>Assignment 10 - Islamic</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750923)</u>	
	 <u>Assignment 9 - Protestant Mysticism</u>	due by 11:59pm
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750933)</u>		
 <u>Final Essay Summer 2020</u>	due by 11:59pm	
<u>(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750934)</u>		

Date	Details	Due
	 <u>Final Exam - Objective</u> (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750906)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Quiz 12: Islam</u> (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750909)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Quiz 13: Nature Religions</u> (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/134487/assignments/1750907)	due by 11:59pm