

Religion & Society
REL 3140
Spring 2018

Classroom: MAT 0012

Class Schedule: Tuesdays—period 5-6 (11:45am-1:40pm)
 Thursdays—period 6 (12:50-1:40pm)

Instructor: Victoria Machado

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Office Hours: Tuesdays—period 4 (10:40am-11:30 am)
 Thursdays—period 4-5 (10:40am-12:35pm)

Course Description:

Religion does not exist alone, rather it is interwoven into many areas of life. This course recognizes this complexity and seeks to investigate the confluence of religion and society within the United States. Collectively, this class will set out on an intellectual journey through the various facets of religion and society in order to uncover what lies at the nexus of these two regions. This course focuses heavily on spatial understandings of religion, including the physical place, journeying into public-private ideas of religion, however it will also venture into the conceptual spheres of how we understand religion and it's role in the United States. In this sense, we will “map” religion through present preconceived notions of how we view it as well as cases that disrupt stereotypes, by looking at instances where religion disengages seemingly established boundaries.

This course encourages students to confront their understandings of religion and move beyond these ideas to tackle religion within a new, academically engaged paradigm. We will discover that politics, resistance, and the struggle between public-private spaces envelops much of this discussion.

NOTE: This course fulfills the requirement for a Diversity credit as well as a 2000 word count.

Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Effectively express the social relations and roles of religion
- Identify ways in which religion engages with the world both in a traditional sense and in more contemporary ways
- Connect academic literature to current events
- Discuss a wide range of perspectives that uphold religion in various milieus
- Synthesize a variety of material into manageable topics of discussion

Assignments	Points Possible
Paper #1	100
Paper #2/ Presentation	250
Paper #3/ Presentation	350
Drafts	150
Attendance/Participation (quizzes, in-class activities, discussion)	150
Total	1000

Grading Scale

A	4.0	93-100	930-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-92	900-929	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

Course Material:

All readings can be accessed via e-learning, ARES, or online articles.

What is Religion?

Tuesday Jan 9: Introductions/Overview of Class

Thursday Jan 11: Understanding Religion apart from Religion

- Discuss "The World's Newest Major Religion: No Religion" From *National Geographic* (April 22, 2016) –Gabe Bullard
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/04/160422-atheism-agnostic-secular-nones-rising-religion/>
- 'After the Rapture, Who Are 'The Leftovers'?' Interview with Tom Perrotta From *NPR* (2014) <https://www.npr.org/2014/06/27/326158610/after-the-rapture-who-are-the-leftovers> (20min)

- Watch: The Leftovers season 1, episode 1 preview (2:40 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLT3YUALJno>

Tuesday Jan 16: Classic Definitions of Religion

- Discuss Robert Orsi Religion Defined
- “Religion as a Cultural System” –Clifford Geertz
<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/religionasaculturalsystem-geertz.pdf>

Thursday Jan 18: Lived Religion

- Discuss “Everyday Miracles: The Study of Lived Religion” From David Hall’s edited collection *Lived Religion in America: Toward a History of Practice* (1997) –Robert Orsi

Religion & Culture (2 weeks)

Tuesday Jan 23: Early immigration

- Discuss “From Euro- and Afro-Atlantic to Pacific Migration System: A Comparative Migration Approach to North American History” From Thomas Bender’s edited collection *Rethinking American History in A Global Age* (2002): 195-235 –Dirk Hoerder
- “The American Setting” (Chapter 4) From *Buddhism in America* (1999)- Richard Seager

Thursday Jan 25: Crossing Space & Time: Exile and Refugees

- Discuss “Diasporic Nationalism and Urban Landscape: Cuban Immigrants at a Catholic Shrine in Miami” From David Hackett’s edited collection *Religion and American Culture* (Second Edition) (2003) – Thomas Tweed
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Tuesday Jan 30: Foreigners in a Home Land

- Jewish Immigration to America: Three Waves –Joellyn Zollman
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-immigration-to-america-three-waves/>
- “What Jewish Children Learned From Charlottesville” Opinion piece from *The New York Times* (Aug 2017) –Nathan Englanger
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/15/opinion/jewish-charlottesville-anti-semitism.html>

Guest Speaker

Thursday Feb 1: Today’s Immigration Trends in a Spatial World

- Discuss “Space” Form *Material Religion* Vol 7 Issue 1 –Thomas Tweed
- Additional Reading TBD

Religion & Politics

Tuesday Feb 6: American Civil Religion

- Discuss “American Civil Religion” (1967) –Robert Bellah
http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm

- “Religion of the Lost Cause” From *The Journal of Southern History* (1980) --Charles Reagan Wilson

Thursday Feb 8: The Moral Majority & the Emerging Church

- Discuss “2017 Has Been a Rough Year for Evangelicals” From *NPR*
<https://www.npr.org/2017/12/29/574590758/2017-has-been-a-rough-year-for-evangelicals>
- “The Theological Origins of the Christian Right” from Andrew Preston’s *Faithful Republic Religion & Politics in Modern America* –Molly Worthen
- “Chapter 8 The Gospel of Liberation” From *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism* –Molly Worthen

Additional Readings:

- Camp Meeting: at the Wild Goose Festival (2011) From *The Christian Century* Foundation
<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&sid=8a484d98-0cb8-4132-a714-0428e3c6abf0%40pdc-v-sessmgr01>
- “A Match Made in Heaven” From *The Atlantic*, Published May 1, 2017 –Molly Worthen
- “Emerging Christianity and Religious Identity” From the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (March 2017) – Katharine Sarah Moody, Randall W. Reed

Tuesday Feb 13: The Catholic Worker Movement

- Discuss “A Brief Introduction to the Catholic Worker Movement” –Tom Cornell
<http://www.catholicworker.org/cornell-history.html>
- “The Final Word is Love,” Postscript from *The Long Loneliness* (1952) --Dorothy Day
<http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/articles/867.html>
- CW Early History

Thursday Feb 15: Christian Anarchy & Holy Mischief

- Discuss “Christian Anarchism” from *All the Way to Heaven: A Theological Reflection on Dorothy Day, Peter Maurin and the Catholic Worker* – Lawrence Holben
- “Christo-anarchism is a move toward non-domination” From *Geez Magazine* Winter 2012, Published Nov 2012 –Mark Van Steenwyk
<http://geezmagazine.org/magazine/article/christo-anarchism-is-not-a-belief-but-a-move-toward-non-domination/>

Paper # 1 Due

Religion & the Environment (2 weeks)

Tuesday Feb 20: Religious Environmentalism

- Discuss “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis” From *Science* 155 (1967) pp 1203-1207 –Lynn White Jr.
- The Greening of Religion (chapter 4) From *The Rights of Nature* (1989) -Roderick Nash

Additional Readings:

- The Greening of Philosophy (chapter 5) From *The Rights of Nature* (1989) -Roderick Nash

Thursday Feb 22: When Land is more than Land

- “Stalking with Stories” From *Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache* – Keith Basso

Tuesday Feb 27: Prayerful Activism

- “Standing on the Sacred: Ceremony, Discourse and Resistance in the Fight Against the Black Snake” (2017) From JSRNC –Greg Johnson, Siv Ellen Kraft
<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&sid=2b47e0eb-967f-4e96-872e-e3af534c8f07%40sessionmgr4007>
- Discuss “What Religion can teach Climate Scientists: Bill McKibben on the New England roots of religious environmentalism” From *The Boston Globe* (July 2015)
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2015/07/25/what-religion-can-teach-climate-scientists/LAZYZ6DBVHr1THqvWFXffO/story.html>
- Check out <https://www.jewishclimate.org/#home>

Additional Readings:

- Introduction and Chapter One From *Laudato Si On Care for Our Common Home* – Pope Francis <https://laudatosi.com/>
- “Bill McKibben on faith and the Church” From *EcoTheoReview* (March 2014) – Taylor Brorby <http://www.ecotheo.org/2014/03/bill-mckibben-on-faith-and-the-church/>

Thursday Mar 1: Prayerful Activism (continued)

- Discuss Islamic Basis for Environmental Ethics From *ERN*
- Discuss Islam From *ERN*

****Guest Presentation on Islam & Nature****

Paper Workshop #2

SPRING BREAK March 3-10

Religion & Expression

Tuesday Mar 13: Folk Art

- Discuss “Southern Religion & Visionary Art” (chapter 5) From *Judgment & Grace in Dixie: Southern Faith from Faulker to Elvis* (1995) –Charles Regan Wilson
- “Paradise Regained” From *Atlanta* (2013) –Betsy Riley
- Leonard Knight’s Salvation Mountain From *Virginia Quarterly Review* (2013)-Aaron Huey

Thursday March 15: Folk Art (continued)

- Discuss “Salvation Mountain: one man’s monument to God’s Love” From *LA Times* (May 2010) –Tony Perry <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/may/20/local/la-me-out-there-20100520>

- “Leonard Knight, artist at Salvation Mountain, dies at age 82” From *LA Times* (Feb 2014) –Tony Perry <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-leonard-mountain-20140210-story.html>
- “Salvation Mountain Artist Has Blessings Bestowed on His Work; Landmark: Labor of Love in the desert is deemed a national folk art shrine” From *LA Times* (April 2002) –Tony Perry

Tuesday March 20: Student Presentations of Paper #2

- Readings TBA
- For next class—Bring in an example of popular individualistic expression that combines the sacred and the profane. Think music, art, literature, clothing, etc. Have the example and an explanation ready for Thursday’s discussion. Come prepared!

Paper #2 Due

Thursday March 22: Individual Self-Expression (continued)

Class directed discussion

- “Meet Voice of Baceprot, The All-Girl Metal Band Waking Waves in Indonesia” From *NPR* (August 2017) –Ashley Westerman
<https://www.npr.org/2017/08/09/542238928/meet-voice-of-baceprot-the-all-girl-metal-band-making-waves-in-indonesia>
- “Chapter 7 Mormon Garments: Sacred Clothing and the Body” From *Material Religion* (1995) pg 198-221 –Colleen McDannell

Additional Readings:

- ““Music Sacred and Profane: Exploring the Use of Popular Music in Evangelical Worship Service” From *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 24:3 (Fall 2012) –April Vega

Religion & Gender

Tuesday March 27: Religion as Women’s Sphere

- Discuss “Women’s History Is American Religious History”-- Ann Braude
- “Submissive Wives, Wounded Daughters, and Female Soldiers: Prayer and Christian Womanhood in Women’s Aglow Fellowship” (chapter 8) From David Hall’s edited collection *Lived Religion in America: Toward a History of Practice* (1997) –Marie Griffith

Thursday March 29: Men’s Spheres

- Discuss *That Religion in Which All Men Agree: Freemasonry in American Culture* –David Hackett

Tuesday April 3: Queer Religion/ Gender is Over

- Discuss “Penguin Family Values: The Nature of Planetary Environmental Reproductive Justice” From Catriona Sandilands’ *Queer Ecologies* –Noel Sturgeon (will upload)
- Introduction from Catriona Sandilands’ *Queer Ecologies*

Thursday April 5: *Paper Workshop #3*

- Readings TBA

Discussion of FINAL Presentations

Religion & Community

Tuesday April 10: Tolerance and Community

- Discuss excerpt from *Southern Crescent* (2017)–Matt Hartley

Thursday April 12: Communal Living Gandhian influences

- Discuss Chapter One Examining Change from *Living Sustainably* (2017)–Whitney Sanford (will upload)

Concluding Remarks, Synthesis, & Final Paper

Tuesday April 17: Class Evaluations / Overview discussion /*Final Paper #3 Due*

Thursday April 19: FINAL Presentations

Tuesday April 24: FINAL Presentations / Last Remarks

Course Policies:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the [Student Honor Code](#). The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.

b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

(University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007

<<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire [Student Honor Code](#).

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without providing the exact location from which it came

Classroom Behavior

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Most of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics

and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

****Laptops are only open for composing research or reading. No Internet surfing during class.****

Attendance Policies

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this class are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Please Note: If you are absent it is still your responsibility to make yourself aware of all due dates. You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

In-Class Work

Papers are due at the beginning of class and on-line at the assigned deadline. Late papers will not be accepted. **Failure of technology is not an excuse.**

Participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in small groups and participate in group discussions, and other in-class activities. Be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. Students must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up.

Paper Maintenance Responsibilities

Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student's responsibility to have and to make available this material.

Mode of Submission

All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and every page should include your name. If a source has been used in a paper, it **must** be cited on a references page.

*Every paper will be submitted as MS Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents to Canvas by the due date and time. Save and submit all papers in Canvas using the following file name: lastname3104Paper1 (machado3104Paper1). **ALL papers require an online AND paper copy submission. An assignment will be considered late without BOTH forms of submission and points will be deducted.***

****A letter grade will be subtracted for every 12 hours a paper is late.****

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Writing Studio

The University Writing Studio is located in Tigert 302 and is available to all UF students.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

An Important Note about Writing

Structurally, all papers should have a thesis and be well organized with strong topic sentences and appropriate word choice. They should use appropriate punctuation, spelling and grammar. Furthermore, each paper should be in MLA format and include both in text citations and a works cited page. On a more comprehensive level, they should answer the question with enough details to show a strong basis of understanding.