

Religion in Florida

REL 3938- Spring 2019

Instructor: Victoria Machado

Classroom: Matherly Hall 116

Meeting Times: M periods 8-9 (3:00-4:55pm) / W- period 9 (4:05-4:55pm)

Office Hours: M 7 (1:55-2:45pm) /W 8 (3:00-3:50pm)

Office Location: Anderson Hall 119

Course Description:

What rituals and practices do Floridians embody, enact, and turn to in their daily lives? What types of traditional and new religious movements gain traction in the Sunshine State? How can we understand Florida's culture in relation to the United States? Do the movements in the third most populous state follow those of the larger American society or are they set apart and different? Is Florida a frontrunner or a follower? And how does religion factor in?

Starting with these questions, this course draws from a historical and cultural perspective in order to investigate a wide range of religious experiences and traditions in Florida. The traditions explored will cover everything from mainstream Christianity to alternative religions such as Santeria. Most of all, this class will largely focus on 'lived religions' of Florida with the help of six overlapping frameworks. Thematically and loosely chronologically, we will journey through Florida's history, exploring the religious groups that arise along the way and the social context in which these faiths take root. Perhaps the most important concept to keep in mind is how Florida's distinct culture fuels these movements and groups thereby further perpetuating the unique environment of what we know as the Sunshine State.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand religious groups and practices within their specific historical and social context
- To effectively explore how the special location of Florida impacts the presence of religious traditions
- To gauge how the local landscape impacts the ways we think and live in Florida
- To uncover the relationship between Florida and the larger American culture
- To connect past historical events to present day occurrences
- To gain introductory skills for conducting ethnographic research
- To investigate what it means to study 'lived religions' of dying (or dead) groups

Assignment Grade Breakdown:

Assignment	Points
Religious Background in Florida	10
Participation/Presenter questions	25
Midterm	30
Final Project*	135
Total points possible:	200

GRADE	%POINTS
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D/PASS	65-69
F/FAIL	64 and below

*The final project has multiple parts that build upon each other. Missing one part will hinder the success of your final paper/presentation. Additional information will be provided during the semester.

Fieldwork Write Up (2)—30pts

Interview (2) with Transcriptions (1)—30pts

Final Paper/Final Presentation—75pts

Textbook: Various readings. See Canvas/Course Reserves.

Semester Schedule:

Introductions

Monday January 7 Introductions to the Course

Wednesday January 9 What is Religion

- Reading: "What is the Academic Study of Religion," Russell McCutcheon

Monday January 14 Overview of Lived Religion/Ethnographic Fieldwork & Library Sources

- Reading: "Doing Religious Studies with your Whole Body" in *Practical Matters: A Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology* (Mar 2013), Robert Orsi
<http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2013/03/01/doing-religious-studies/>
Guest Speaker Megan Daly, Smathers Library

Wednesday January 16 Religious Background in Florida

- Reading:
 - "Images and Mental Maps" in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Vol 65(2) (June 1975), Yi-Fu Tuan
 - Excerpt from *Bioregionalism* Edited by Michael Vincent McGinnis
- Religious Background in Florida Paper due Jan. 15 at 11:59pm

Monday January 21 No Class

Historical Roots

Wednesday January 23 Early Indigenous Traditions: Understanding Cultures through Suppression and Synchronicities

- Reading: Part I Chapters 1-5 in *Florida Indians and the Invasion from Europe* (2017), Jerald Milanich

Monday January 28 Culture Clash: Understanding Cultures through Suppression and Synchronicities

- Reading:
 - Part II in *Florida Indians and the Invasion from Europe* (2017), Jerald Milanich
 - “Writing Timucua Recovering and Interrogating Indigenous Authorship” in *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Summer; 15(3): 409-441 (2017), Alejandra Dubcovsky & George Aaron Broadwell
- Visit Smathers Archives*

Wednesday January 30 Culture Clash: Spanish Catholic Missionaries 1565—Timucan Language

- Reading:
 - *Francisco Pareja's 1613 Confessionario; a documentary source for Timucuan ethnography* excerpts, Jerald T. Milanich
 - “Writing Timucua Recovering and Interrogating Indigenous Authorship” in *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Summer; 15(3): 409-441 (2017), Alejandra Dubcovsky & George Aaron Broadwell
- Guest Speaker Dr. Aaron Broadwell, UF Anthropology*

Alternative/New Religious Movements

Monday February 4 The Koreshans late 1800s-1908

- Reading: “A World of Wonders: The Mentality of the Supernatural in 17th Century New England” in *Religion in American Culture: A Reader, Second Edition* (2003), David Hall
- Film/Visit Smathers Library Archives*

Wednesday February 6 Cassadaga Spiritualists 1895(?)

- Reading:
 - “Seeking the Sweet Spirit of Harmony: Establishing a Spiritualist Community at Cassadaga, 1893-1933” in *Florida Historical Quarterly* Summer 1998, John Guthrie Jr
 - Séance City Florida from the *Bitter Southerner* <http://bittersoutherner.com/seance-city-florida-spiritualism-cassadaga/?rq=cassadaga>

Monday February 11 Scientology

- Reading: “Deconstructing the Scientology ‘Monster’ of popular Imagination” in *Handbook of Scientology* 2017, Erin Prophet
- Guest Speaker Dr. Erin Prophet, UF Religion*

Political Engagement

Wednesday February 13 African American churches

- Reading: "Family, religion, and education: a profile of African-American life in Tampa, Florida, 1900-1930" in *The Journal of Negro History* Winter 1994, Walter T. Howard & Virginia M. Howard

Monday February 18 Early Judaism

- Reading: "Religion, place and space: a framework for investigating historical geographies of religious identities and communities" in *Progress in Human Geography* pg 28-43 30,1 (2006), Catherine Brace, Adrian R. Bailey, David C. Harvey. Please only read pages 28-3. *Visit Judaica Suite with Rebecca Jefferson, Head of Judaica Collection*

Wednesday February 20 Anti-Catholic sentiments Sydney J Catts 1917-1921

- Reading: "When America Hated Catholics" from *Politico* (Sept 13, 2015), Josh Zeitz <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/09/when-america-hated-catholics-213177>

Guest Speaker Sarah Moxy Moczygemba, Smathers Library Introduction to Chronicling America Digital Newspaper Project

Monday February 25 Project Check in

- First Fieldwork Write Up & Interview Questions Due / Midterm Prep

Wednesday February 27 Midterm

Monday March 4 Spring Break

Wednesday March 6 Spring Break

Immigration

Monday March 11 Cuban Catholics (1961)/Charismatic Catholics

- Reading:
 - "Diasporic Nationalism and Urban Landscape: Cuban immigrants at a Catholic Shrine in Miami," in *Gods in the City* (1999), Thomas Tweed
 - An Ajiaco Christianity from *La Lucha for Cuba: Religion and Politics on the streets of Miami* (2003), Miguel A. De La Torre

Wednesday March 13 Santeria/Candomble

- Reading:
 - As Santeria grows and evolves, the increasing focus on Africa opens rifts among the sects" in *The Miami Herald* (Mar. 2014), David Ovalle <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article1962047.html>
 - "Magic potions found in Miami's Botanicas are diverse as the city" in *The Miami Herald* (Nov 2017), Sarah Moreno <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article187313638.html>

Monday March 18 Haitian Voodoo

- Reading: "Young Haitian-Americans turn to voodoo for cultural and spiritual connection" in *The Guardian* (Feb. 2009) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/feb/11/voodoo-usa-haiti>

Guest Speaker Flo Turcotte, Smathers Library, on Zora Neale Huston

Wednesday March 20 Greek Orthodox

- Reading: "The Background of the Greek Settlers in the New Smyrna Colony" in *Florida Historical Quarterly* (Oct 1956), E.P. Panagopoulos

Monday March 25 *Guest Lecture / Presentations* – **Second Fieldwork Write Up & Interview Transcription Due**

Wednesday March 27 Hindu Traditions

- Reading:
 - "South Florida Hindus Join in Festival of Navaratri- 9 Nights of Fun, Worship" *The Miami Herald* (Oct 2007), Lisa Bolivar
 - Performance Reading, TBA

Large Mainstream Traditions

Monday April 1 Judaism

- Reading:
 - "Seeking Jewish Spiritual Roots in Miami and Los Angeles" in *Religion in American Culture: A Reader, Second Edition* (2003), Deborah Dash Moore
 - Selections from *The Jews of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers and Revolutionaries (1823-1969)*, Arlo Haskell

Wednesday April 3 Islam Youth

- Reading: *Southern Crescent* excerpts (2017), Matt Hartley
Guest Speaker Matt Hartley, UNF Interfaith Center

Monday April 8 Christianity

- Reading:
 - "'I Pray We Won't Let This Moment Pass Us By': Christian Concert Films and Numious Experiences" in the *Journal of Media & Religion* Oct-Dec, Vol 15 Issue 4 p210-222 (2016), Jim Trammell
 - "Megachurch 'High' May Explain their Success" in the *Huffington Post* (2012) https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/20/megachurch-high-may-explain-success_n_1813334.html

Environmentally Based Action

Wednesday April 10 Water Activism

- Reading: "The Trouble with Wilderness" in W. Cronon ed., *Uncommon Ground*, pp. 69-89 (1996), William Cronon

Monday April 15 Seminole Traditions, spirituality and the Land

- Reading:
 - Interview with Rev. Houston Cypress, “On Activism as a Creative form of Healing”
https://thecreativeindependent.com/people/artist-activist-and-poet-reverend-houston-cypress-on-activism-as-a-creative-form-of-healing/?fbclid=IwAR38LG6dox5JhSnBs_m3pyyOq60mZZaRNGDQeXDCCbJiYIquyHPKqxVXTeM
 - <https://www.semtribe.com/Culture/SeminoleandChristianity.aspx>
 - <https://www.semtribe.com/Culture/SeminoleandtheLand.aspx>
 - “Indigenous Women Take Activist Lead in face of global challenges” in *The Seminole Tribune* (Oct 2018), Damon Scott <https://www.semtribe.com/SeminoleTribune/>

Final Presentations

Wednesday April 17 Project Work

Monday April 22 Earth Day – Final Presentations

Wednesday April 24 Final Paper Due/Final 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. Some 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>

- You are allowed three absences. **Each absence after three will lower your final grade by a half a letter grade.**

The policy of the University Writing Program is that if a student misses more than **six periods** during the fall/spring term, he or she will fail the entire course. The UWP exempts from this policy only those absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics, band, and religious holidays. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed *and* come to the next class prepared; contact a classmate to find out what work you have missed.

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

Assignments are due at the beginning of class or online at the assigned deadline.

****A letter grade will be subtracted for every 6 hours an assignment is late.****

Failure of technology is not an excuse.

Participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to participate in group discussions, project workshops, 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. Final Project workshops require that students provide constructive feedback about their peers' writing.

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 MLA format with 12-point Times New Roman/Arial font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and every page should include your last name and a number. 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) document to Canvas by the due date and time. Save and submit all papers in Canvas using the following file name: lastname.nameofassignment (machado.religiousbackground).

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 Turlington Hall 2215 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.