

Fall 2013

REL 2121 (2211) AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY

CREDITS: 3 Semester Hours

Fulfills Humanities and Diversity Gen Ed. Requirement

This course does not meet Gordon Rule Requirements

INSTRUCTOR:

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Email me through the e-learning website.

"In person" Office Hours: *By appointment*

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

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"In person" Office Hours: *By appointment*

DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an introductory overview of the American religious experience from an historical and cultural perspective. The interaction of American religions and cultures is examined in three chronological periods: 1) Colonial America 1500-1800 2) Nineteenth Century, and 3) Twentieth Century.

COURSE GOALS:

- 1) Develop an understanding of American religious history
- 2) Learn how to reflect critically on how you arrived at your beliefs and values and bring to consciousness the degree that these might be shaped by outlooks in the various cultures and subcultures in which you participate.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jon Butler et al, Religion in American Life: A Short History Second Edition (Oxford, 2011)

David G. Hackett ed., Religion and American Culture: A Reader Second Edition (Routledge, 2003).

COURSE FORMAT:

This course will be "delivered" entirely on-line. Thus, it requires you to be very self-directed and proactive in checking the web-site daily to make sure you are familiar with course expectations and are fully aware of when assignments are due. In fact, you must take a SYLLABUS QUIZ during Week 1 before you will be allowed to move forward with the course. The purpose of the syllabus quiz is to ensure that you are fully aware of your responsibilities in the course so that you are prepared to succeed.

REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND GRADING

(1) Fifteen Quizzes

There will be fifteen quizzes throughout the term corresponding with the 15 course units. Each quiz will include material from the lectures, readings and, where applicable, videos assigned for that unit. The quizzes are composed of 10 multiple choice or True/False questions. You can earn a maximum of **150 points** for the quizzes. Once you start a quiz, **you only have 10 minutes to complete it.** You cannot stop and resume later. **Quizzes must be completed by 11:59 PM on their due date.** If you wait until that evening to take the quizzes, be sure to give yourself enough time to deal with technical difficulties, should they arise. I would advise you begin the quizzes **no later than** 9:00 p.m. on the day the unit is completed. Of course, you can take them at any time *before* the official deadline.

If you miss the deadline for a quiz, ONCE during the term you can take it after the deadline. To do this, you must ask the instructor to reset the due date and time for you.

(2) Three Tests

There will be three tests throughout the term corresponding with the 3 Parts of the course. Each test will include material from the lectures, readings and, where applicable, videos assigned for that Part. The tests are composed of multiple choice or true/false questions. The test for Part 2 includes 40 questions, it is worth 40 points, and you will have 40 minutes to complete it. The test for Part 3 includes 50 questions, it is worth 50 points, and you will have 50 minutes to complete it. The test for Part 4 includes 60 questions, it is worth 60 points, and you will have 60 minutes to complete it. You can earn a maximum of **150 points** for the tests. *You cannot make up these tests.* Once you start a test, **you only have the assigned time period to complete it.** You cannot stop and resume later. **Tests must be completed by 11:59 PM on the date specified.**

(3) Autobiographical Paper

At the beginning of the term you will be asked to write a short (3 page) paper on your relationship with religion. This paper will be worth **30 points**.

(4) Mid-Term Fieldwork Project

Midway through the course you will be asked to do a fieldwork paper (5 pages) that involves a visit to a religious service. Worth **80 points**.

(5) Final Paper

At the end of the course you will be asked to write two separate essays (2 pages each) on topics of enduring significance in this course. This paper will be worth **60 points**.

Written work will be evaluated using a rubric (i.e., grading key) designed by the instructor. They will be evaluated for their effectiveness, organization, clarity, and coherence in addressing content-based questions as well as their grammar, punctuation, and use of standard written English. Grading rubrics for each paper will be made available to you.

(6) Participation in a Discussion Session

Each unit has a discussion session. Students will be divided into small groups and during each of the course's fifteen units a question will be asked of the group. Every group member is required to say something that contributes to a useful discussion. Your participation in discussion sessions is worth 30 points. Each session you get 1 point for saying something relevant (one idea); 2 points are awarded for more considered comments (another idea) or saying something that builds upon previous comments by others. Comments can be as short as a sentence or as long as a paragraph.

COMPONENTS OF FINAL GRADE (SUMMARY)

15 Quizzes	150 points
3 Tests	150
Autobiography	30

Mid-term Project	80
Final Paper	60
Discussions	<u>30</u>
TOTAL	<u>500</u>

COMPUTATION OF FINAL COURSE GRADES

Based on 500 total possible points

A	465 to 500 points
A-	450 to 464 points
B+	433 to 449
B	417 to 432
B-	400 to 416
C+	383 to 399
C	367 to 382
C-	350 to 366
D+	333 to 349
D	317 to 332
D-	300 to 316
E	below 300

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late paper assignments will be accepted when *written* documentation is provided to the Instructor or TAs within 24 hours of the missed deadline. Documentation must come from a medical or legal authority. You must provide the same quality of documentation that is expected by the UF petitions committee.

Late papers without documentation will also be accepted with the understanding that your grade on the assignment will be reduced one-third (e.g. B+ to B) for every school day it is late.

Late work that involves technical difficulties with E-learning MUST be accompanied by a ticket number from the Help Desk. If you have a problem accessing materials or submitting assignments, contact the Help Desk ***immediately before contacting your TAs or instructor. If your ticket number indicates that you waited until the last minute to submit an assignment, you will not get credit.***

Please keep in mind that online courses require an enormous amount of self-direction and independent work. ***Thus, it is essential that you keep up with all assignments each week.***

Early work is always accepted!!!

ACADEMIC HONESTY

By enrolling in this course, you are indicating your consent to the University of Florida Honor Code:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Violation of the Honor Code will not be tolerated and can result in immediate Failure and additional disciplinary action. If you do not know what behaviors are considered a violation, it is your responsibility to find out. Visit the following website for more information: <http://www/dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>

STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Students who require course-related accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Disability

Resource Center will provide documentation for you to submit to your instructors. Please deliver this documentation to the Religion Department office (107 Anderson) no later than the end of the first week of class. For more information, contact the Disability Resource Center (which is located at 001 Reid Hall, south side, ground floor) by phone at 392-8565. Please let the Instructor or TAs know if there is anything else we can do to make your experiences in the course more effective for you.

For CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS consult the Due Dates.

You will find more detailed information about each week's activities on the course web page