Summer A 2020

REL 2121   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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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 TEXT:
Jon Butler et al, Religion in American Life: A Short History Second Edition (Oxford, 2011)

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.

REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND GRADING

(1) Fifteen Quizzes

There will be fifteen quizzes throughout the semester 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. *You cannot make up these 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 the day that the unit is completed.*** If you wait until that afternoon 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*** 3:00 on the day the unit is completed. Of course, you can take them at any time *before* the official deadline.

Please Note: Once during the course you will be allowed to have a quiz that you failed to do, for whatever reason, reset. Simply ask me and I will do this. ONCE.

(2) Three Tests

There will be three tests throughout the semester corresponding with the major 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 1 includes 40 questions, it is worth 40 points, and you will have 40 minutes to complete it. The test for Part 2 includes 50 questions, it is worth 50 points, and you will have 50 minutes to complete it. The test for Part 3 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 school day after the Part is completed.*** This means that if you wait until that day you may be taking both a unit quiz and a Part test on that day. If you do wait until that afternoon, be sure to give yourself enough time to deal with technical difficulties, should they arise. I would advise you begin the tests ***no later than*** 2:00 on the day the Part is completed. Of course, you can take the tests any time *before* the official deadline.

(3) Mid-Term Fieldwork Project
Midway through the course you will be asked to do a fieldwork paper (5 pages, double-spaced) that involves a visit to a religious service. Worth **80 points**.

(4) Final Paper
At the end of the course you will be asked to write two separate essays (3 pages each, double-spaced) on topics of enduring significance in this course. This paper will be worth **70 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.

(5) Participation in Discussions
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. You are to make two comments, each with a different due date. The first responds to the question. You need to make this response by the due date for this response. The second responds to others' comments and is due one day after the first response.

Every group member is required to say something that contributes to a useful discussion. Comments can be as short as a sentence or as long as a paragraph but you need to say something substantive. For example, just agreeing or disagreeing with a question or another's comment without offering anything further will not result in credit.

In addition, at the beginning of the course you will be asked to participate in a 16 point discussion where you discuss your relationship with religion. This discussion will be the longest of all discussions this term. You should think of this assignment as a short essay of between one and three pages in length though there is no length requirement. Take the space you need to thoroughly address the topic.

 After the due date for the original posting has passed, you should choose three of your group members' responses and challenge them with a follow-up question. The question can be address a vague area of their paper, a personal comparison to your own religious background, or anything else that you would like to know.

 To receive full credit (16 points), students must respond to all three follow-up questions posed to them.

    Original posting (essay post): 10 points
    Follow-up questions posted to peers: 0.5 points each (6 total)
    Replies to peers' questions: 1 point each (3 total)
    Essay post due May 15.
    Follow up questions due May 19.
    Replies to peers due May 26.

 (6) Surveys
Twice during the course of the term you will be asked to fill out surveys that provide feedback to me on how the course is going for you. You will be given 2 points for each survey you fill out.

COMPONENTS OF FINAL GRADE (SUMMARY)

15 Quizzes	150 points
3 Tests	150
Mid-term Project	80
Final Paper	70
Discussions	46
Surveys	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	500

COMPUTATION OF FINAL COURSE GRADES

Based on 500 total possible points

A	467 to 500 points
A-	450 to 466 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

Percentage scale

A	100% to 93%
A-	< 93% to 90%
B+	< 90% to 87%
B	< 87% to 83%
B-	< 83%to 80%
C+	< 80% to 77%
C	< 77% to 73%
C-	< 73% to 70%
D+	< 70% to 67%
D	< 67% to 63%
D-	< 63% to 60%
E	< 60% to 0%

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS
No assignments will be accepted after the due dates unless *written* documentation is provided to the Instructor or TA's within 24 hours of the missed assignment. 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 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 TA's 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.***

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 is there is anything else we can do to make your experiences in the course more effective for you.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations 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/.