

REL 3410: RELIGION AND NATIONALISM FALL 2025 | CLASS SESSIONS FROM 8/21/25 - 12/3/25

100% ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

This course complies with all UF policies. For information on those policies and for a list of campus resources, please see this page: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>

I. General Information

Instructor: Dr. Anita Anantharam

Email: aanita@ufl.edu

Office Location: via Canvas zoom conferences

Office hours availability: Thursdays 10am - 11am, & by appointment (please email to schedule).

TA: Muktar Sanni

Email: msanni@ufl.edu

Office location: via zoom zoom (link available in Canvas)

Office hours availability: Wednesdays 10am-12pm. & by appointment (please email to schedule).

Non-grading Undergraduate TA: Peyton Harris

Email: peyton.harris@ufl.edu

Office location: via zoom (link available in Canvas)

Office hours: Wednesday 8:30-10:30 am & by appointment (please email to schedule).

Required Books

>> All readings available via UFLIB course reserves and/or as PDFs.

Course Description

This course focuses on direct and indirect influences of religion on nationalism and the relationship that exists between them historically and today. Understanding this relationship is important to national security and national interests in the US and globally. Topics of colonialism, linguistic nationalism, religious practices, traditions, social movements, and family will be explored.

Required Readings and Works

All required readings will be available on our course Canvas site or the UF Library Course Reserves, or for free online. Full bibliographic info available on Canvas.

II. Graded Work

Description of Graded Work

Weekly Discussion - 60%

Original response is due on Thursdays at 11:59pm each week and the two responses to your peers in your group is due on Sundays by 11:59pm. There are 10 discussion prompts which are meant to test your reading knowledge. You are welcome to bring in current events and additional references into your responses but you must answer the question in your own words (without quoting from the text or plagiarizing from online / AI-derived sources). A grading rubric is provided on the upper right hand corner [three dots/ vertical ellipses] of each discussion prompt assignment.

Outline of Team Project / Paper - 5%

You will submit a one-page outline of your project and the names of you team. You only need to submit one for the whole team. **Deadline to pick a team is Sunday October 26th by 11:59pm**

Team Research Paper or Team Creative Project - 35%

Two Options - I encourage you to get to know each other offline as early as possible to discuss your group research or creative project.

Option 1) Join a team of your peers and write an original research paper / white paper/ policy document of 1000 words on a topic of your choice - connecting 5 readings from the class (required) to a research topic of your choosing. The whole team will get the same grade for the research paper and you can pick your own team. I encourage you to get to know each other offline if you are interested in a group /creative project. You will submit a final written research paper.

Option 2) Join a team of your peers and do something creative - bring us joy, make us cry, enjoy yourself in the making of your creative assignment - host a podcast, make a short video (TikTok if it is not banned) or Instagram reel, interview foreign policy experts at UF or beyond (e.g. Bob Graham Center for Public Service, Hamilton College, Florida Institute for National Security in the college of Engineering, etc.) connecting ideas discussed in 5 class readings (required) to your creative project on religion and nationalism. The whole team will get the same grade for the project and you can pick your own team.

Regardless of your option 1 or option 2, the assignment will be due at the end of semester on the last day of classes December 3, 2025 by 11:59pm.

| Assignment | Description | Requirements | % |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| Team Outline | One page outline about your project with names of people on team and a preliminary list of 3 resources. | one page outline approx. 250 words | 5% |
| Team Research Essay or Project | Research essay or creative project which will ask you to reflect on the broad themes of the course and make connections between readings. Work in teams of 3-5. You can pick your own team. | 1000 words or substantial creative presentation | 35% |
| Weekly Discussion | There will be 10 required discussion posts which will ask students to answer a reading prompt. This prompt will assess student's comprehension of the reading as well their ability to think critically about the readings. Each response should be between 250 words and 500 words. No quotes from readings. | 10 discussion posts 250-500 words each Each post is worth 6% | 60% |

Make up policy: All work can be made up for medical reasons or for participation in official university activities or athletics. **Proper documentation required.** That said, we cannot accept late work after Dec 3rd, 2025 at 11:59pm which is the last day of classes. This is to ensure that we are able to finalize grades in time for graduating students.

Grading Scale

We will round up to the nearest whole number (e.g. 93.45% = 93.5% = 94%) For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|--|----|----------|
| A | 94 – 100% | | C | 74 – 76% |
| A- | 90 – 93% | | C- | 70 – 73% |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | | D+ | 67 – 69% |
| B | 84 – 86% | | D | 64 – 66% |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|--|----|----------|
| B- | 80 – 83% | | D- | 60 – 63% |
| C+ | 77 – 79% | | E | <60 |

III. Annotated Weekly Schedule

Weekly Schedule of Readings

Readings, assignments, discussions, exams, etc. must be completed in the week they are assigned. Please note that this schedule of readings is subject to minor modifications. All changes in the syllabus will be announced in class and posted via E-learning/Canvas. Make sure you have notifications enabled so you don't miss something important!

Week 1 (Aug 21-24)

- Class Intro
- Introduce yourself and discussion groups set-up
- Said, to complete by next week introduction to page 67

Week 2 (Aug 25-31)

Both these readings introduce students to look at the connections between literature, history, memory, spiritual knowledge, and European imperialism.

- Said, introduction to page 62
- Discussion 1

Week 3 (Sept 1-7)

The readings this week explain the connections between religious communities and the formation of linguistic nationalism in Europe

- Anderson, Imagined Communities: On the Origins of National Consciousness
- Chapters 1 (all); Chapter 2 (all) - you can skim the middle part because it is a lot! but you must read pp. 9-12; bottom of p. 32-36 from chapter 2)
- Chapter 3
- Discussion 2

Week 4 (Sept 8-14)

This week's readings focus on how the eclipse of empire and the birth of religious nationalism in the colonies – British India and Dutch Indonesia.

- Anderson, Imagined Communities – Census, Map, Museum
- Chapter 6 and 10
- Discussion 3

Week 5 (Sept 15-21)

Catch up week + Social Discussion + Film

- Social intro discussion
- Final paper planning for your final projects
- Film: Black Skin White Mask (UFLIB)

Week 6 (Sept 22-28)

This week's readings are focused on the French in Algeria told from the perspective of a psychiatrist writing about the psychology of war

- Fanon, Wretched of the Earth Chapter 1 and Chapter 3
- Recommended, Chapter on National Culture
- Discussion 4

Week 7 (Sept 29 - Oct 5)

This week we will look at the eclipse of empire and the birth of new nations

- Fanon, Algeria Unveiled
- Drucilla Cornell
- Discussion 5

Week 8 (Oct 6-12)

This week's readings look at the role women would play in the new nation's imaginary

- Walton
- Davin
- Discussion 6

Week 9 (Oct 13-19)

This week's readings focus on empire, money, and resources

- McClintock
- Stoler
- Discussion 7

Week 10 (Oct 20-26)

- Group Project / Final Paper Prep
- Submit your group information today - no extensions allowed!

Week 11 (Oct 27- Nov 2)

How do we understand ideas of morality and liberalism in the new nation?

- Walkowitz
- Chauncey
- Discussion 8

Week 12 (Nov 3-9)

This week's readings look at different perspectives on patriotism and religious nationalism.

- Nussbaum
- Samuel Huntington
- Discussion 9

Week 13 (Nov 10-16)

This week we will look at language, identity, and belonging

- Amitava Kumar, Paper
- RK Ramanuja, Annanya's Anthropology
- Salman Rushdie
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o
- Discussion 10

Week 14 (Nov 17-23)

Final Projects/Essays work week

- Last week to finalize / work on your final group paper / projects

Week 15 (THANKSGIVING BREAK - NOV 24-30)

Week 16 ((Dec 1-3)

- Final Projects/Essays due
- Last day of classes is Dec 3, 2025
- No late assignments will be accepted after 11:59pm Dec 3rd, 2025.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved following learning outcomes:

Content: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline(s).

- Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes. Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations.
- Identify and analyze core themes, questions, theoretical frameworks, and methods used in the social scientific study of nationalism and religious movements. Assessments: Perusall annotations, discussion posts.
- Analyze the interactions between religious values and nationalism historically and today in the US and globally. Assessments: Perusall annotations, discussion posts.
- Identify, describe, and explain the ways that nationalism in the world has emerged in response to various social problems and religious conflicts, utilizing a variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks from social sciences. Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations, final essay/project.
- Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world. Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations, final essay/project.

Critical Thinking: Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the discipline(s).

- Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions.

Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations

- Expose students to the variety of quantitative and qualitative methods used to analyze the popularity of nationalism in different parts of the world and religion's role in them. Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations.
- Analyze critically the ways that nationalism and political movements emerge, the strategies and outcomes that citizens deployed in these movements, and the relations between individuals and social collectives. Assessments: discussion posts, Perusall annotations, final reflection paper.
- Analyze and evaluate both primary and secondary texts about religion and nationalism, using established methods and practices appropriate to the Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences Assessments: final paper/project.
- Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world. Assessments: Perusall annotations, discussion posts, final project/essay.

Communication: Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline(s).

- Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively.
- Develop and present in writing the analysis of qualitative and quantitative materials to draw reasonable conclusions based on their analysis on a specific problems. Assessments: discussion posts, final project/essay.
- Present their analyses to the instructor and fellow students using appropriate text, data, and images. Assessments: Discussions, final paper/project, exams.

VI. Required Policies

Attendance Policy

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

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by

visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/Links to an external site.>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/Links to an external site.>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links to an external site.>

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. See: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

NOTE: ChatGPT and AI assisted writing technology used must be cited as such.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/Links to an external site.> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

This course complies with all UF policies. For information on those policies and for a list of campus resources, please see this page: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>