

# REL2502: Introduction to Christianity

Fall 2025 | 3 credits

---

**NOTE:** This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "[Academic Policies and Resources](#)" web page.

## I. General Information

**Meeting days and times:** MWF Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)

**Class location:** MAT0012

### Instructor(s):

**Name:** Dr. Jeyoul Choi

**Office Building/Number:** 107F Anderson Hall

**Phone:** 3522732935

**Email:** [jeyoul@ufl.edu](mailto:jeyoul@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours:** 2:00-4:00 p.m. (MWF) or by appointment

### Course Description

Includes origins and development of Christianity, beliefs and rituals, global diversity, Christianity-inspired literature, and engagement with contemporary cultural issues.

This course introduces students to the history of Christianity as one of the global religious traditions. While setting aside the evaluation of its "truth claims," students will explore the various ways to "become a Christian" in different historical and social contexts around the globe. A better understanding of the history of Christianity offers students the chance to critically reflect upon their Christian faith and its ongoing impact on society. The first part of the course focuses on how Christianity, initially a "Jewish sect," began in ancient Palestine and the Greco-Roman world. The second part moves to medieval Europe, where students will learn more about how Christianity became an imperial religion amidst intriguing political and social circumstances. The last portion of the course is allocated to exploring and examining various types of Christianity worldwide and their continuing impacts on modern and postmodern societies.

### Prerequisites

N/A

**General Education Designation:** none.

### Course Materials

- Chidester, David. 2000. Christianity: A Global History. New York: HarperCollins Book.

**Materials will be available through the following means:**

Course Reserves  
UF Bookstore

All supplementary readings marked with an asterisk (\*) will be available on Canvas

**Materials Fee:** \$30

## II. Course Goals

### Course Objectives

In this course we will:

- The course explores the history of Christianity from an academic perspective.
- The course examines various impacts of Christianity on different societies.

### Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Identify important historical events and figures in the history of Christianity.
- Explore how Christianity has changed over time across different historical and social contexts.
- Analyze the ongoing impacts of various forms of Christianity on contemporary society.

## III. Graded Work

### Graded Components

**Quizzes (20%):** Starting in the second week of the semester, students will take 11 quizzes administered through Canvas. Each quiz consists of five multiple-choice and true/false questions based on the lectures and readings. Students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz.

**Reading Responses (25%):** Beginning in the third week of the semester, students will complete a total of six reading responses. For each, students are expected to read the assigned course materials and submit a 400-500-word response to the prompt related to the reading on Canvas. The due date for each response is specified in the class schedule below.

**Midterm Exam (20%):** The midterm exam will be administered via Canvas on October 11. It will cover material from the first half of the course. The exam includes a mixture of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Once the exam begins, students will have 40 minutes to complete it (containing 15 questions).

**Final Exam (20%):** The final exam will be administered via Canvas on December 9. It will cover material from the second half of the course. The exam includes a mixture of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Once it begins, students will have 40 minutes to complete it (containing 15 questions).

**Attendance (5%):** Regular attendance is required and will be tracked via Canvas Roll Call. Absences will only be excused with proper documentation for hardships such as illness, family emergencies, military deployment, or other acceptable circumstances. Policies regarding class

attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other course work are consistent with university regulations. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

**Class Participation (10%):** Class participation will be evaluated twice—once in the eighth week and again in the sixteenth week of the semester—based on the rubric provided below:

Class Participation Assessment Rubric:

50 points	Excellent (100%-93%)	Good (92%-89%)	Satisfactory (88%-85%)	Developing (84%-80%)
<b>Frequency of Participation in Class</b>	Student participates in class discussion more than once in each class	Student participates in class discussion once in each class	Student participates in class discussion once in each week	Student participates in class discussion occasionally throughout the semester
<b>Quality of Comments</b>	Comments always insightful & constructive; use appropriate terminology and balance between examples and reading materials	Comments mostly insightful & constructive; mostly use appropriate terminology; comments are too general	Comments are sometimes constructive with occasional signs of insight. Students does not use appropriate terminology; comments are not always relevant to reading materials	Comments are uninformative, lacking in appropriate terminology. Heavy reliance on opinion & personal taste.

Note:

The instructor will weekly record the participation of each student in every class and provide several opportunities for all students to participate in class discussions to meet the minimum requirements (the developing criteria) of the assignment throughout the semester.

Reading:

Students are expected to do all the reading for this class. Success in the course depends on the student's close reading of the material. Each week requires 40 to 60 pages of reading.

**TOTAL: 100%**

**Grading Scale**

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-94
A-	93.9-90
B+	89.9-87

Letter Grade	Number Grade
B	86.9-83
B-	82.9-80
C+	79.9-77
C	76.9-73
C-	72.9-70
D+	69.9-67
D	66.9-63
D-	62.9-60
E	59.9-0

#### IV. Calendar

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
August 22, 2025	Course Introduction & Understanding Religion	(*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 1—Introduction: Understanding World Religions in Global Perspective	N/A
August 25, 2025	Part I. The Origin of Christianity/Judaism	(*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 3— “Jewish Identity and Faith”	N/A
August 27, 2025	Part I. The Origin of Christianity/Judaism	(*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 3— “Jewish Identity and Faith”	N/A
August 29, 2025	Part I. The Origin of Christianity/Judaism	(*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 3— “Jewish Identity and Faith”	N/A
September 1, 2025	Labor Day	No Class	N/A
September 3, 2025	Part I. The Origin of Christianity/Who is Jesus Christ?	Chidester, Chapters 1—Beginnings, 2—Jesus, and 3—Christ	N/A
September 5, 2025	The Origin of Christianity/Who is Jesus Christ?	Chidester, Chapters 1—Beginnings, 2—Jesus, and 3—Christ	Reading Response 1
September 8, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 4—Christians, 5—Churches, and 6—Martyrs	N/A
September 10, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 4—Christians, 5—Churches, and 6—Martyrs	N/A
September 12, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 4—Christians, 5—Churches, and 6—Martyrs	N/A

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
September 15, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity II	Chidester, Chapters 7—Christian Empire, 8—Holiness, and 9—Faith and Reason	N/A
September 17, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity II	Chidester, Chapters 7—Christian Empire, 8—Holiness, and 9—Faith and Reason	N/A
September 19, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity II	Chidester, Chapters 7—Christian Empire, 8—Holiness, and 9—Faith and Reason	Reading Response 2
September 22, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity III	Movie Week	N/A
September 24, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity III	Movie Week	N/A
September 26, 2025	Part II. Christianity in Antiquity/Early Christianity III	Movie Week	N/A
September 29, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 10—Power, 11—Christendom, and 12—Hierarchy Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 5— “Islam: The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience” (p. 173-201)	N/A
October 1, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 10—Power, 11—Christendom, and 12—Hierarchy Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 5— “Islam: The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience” (p. 173-201)	N/A
October 3, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity I	Chidester, Chapters 10—Power, 11—Christendom, and 12—Hierarchy Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 5— “Islam: The Many Faces of the Muslim Experience” (p. 173-201)	Reading Response 3
October 6, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity II	Chidester, Chapters 13—Objects and 14—Scholars	N/A
October 8, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity II	Chidester, Chapters 13—Objects and 14—Scholars	N/A
October 10, 2025	Midterm	N/A	Midterm Exam via Canvas

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
October 13, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity III	Chidester, Chapters 16—Heretics and 17—Mary	N/A
October 15, 2025	Part III. Medieval Christianity III	Chidester, Chapters 16—Heretics and 17—Mary	Reading Response 4
October 17, 2025	Homecoming Week	No Class	N/A
October 20, 2025	Part IV. Modern Christianity	Chidester, Chapters 19—Reformation and 20—Europe Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 4— “Christianity: The Christian Tradition” (p. 153-163)	N/A
October 22, 2025	Part IV. Modern Christianity	Chidester, Chapters 19—Reformation and 20—Europe Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 4— “Christianity: The Christian Tradition” (p. 153-163)	N/A
October 24, 2025	Part IV. Modern Christianity	Chidester, Chapters 19—Reformation and 20—Europe Supplementary Reading: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 4— “Christianity: The Christian Tradition” (p. 153-163)	N/A
October 27, 2025	Part IV. Christianity and Imperialism	Chidester, Chapters 21—New World and 22—Holy Russia	N/A
October 29, 2025	Part IV. Christianity and Imperialism	Chidester, Chapters 21—New World and 22—Holy Russia	N/A
October 31, 2025	Part IV. Christianity and Imperialism	Chidester, Chapters 21—New World and 22—Holy Russia	Reading Response 5
November 3, 2025	Part V. Christianity in America	Chidester, Chapter 23—American Zion Supplementary Readings: (*) Butler, Chapters 5—Slavery and the African Spiritual Holocaust and 6—the Plural Origins of American Revivalism	N/A
November 5, 2025	Part V. Christianity in America	Chidester, Chapter 23—American Zion Supplementary Readings: (*) Butler, Chapters 5—Slavery and the African Spiritual Holocaust and 6—the Plural Origins of American Revivalism	N/A
November 7, 2025	Part V. Christianity in America	Chidester, Chapter 23—American Zion Supplementary Readings: (*) Butler, Chapters 5—Slavery and the African	N/A

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
		Spiritual Holocaust and 6—the Plural Origins of American Revivalism	
November 10, 2025	Part V. Christianity in Asia	Chidester, Chapters 25—Asian Heavens and 26—Hindu Christians Supplementary Readings: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 6—South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism (p. 266-285) and 8—East Asian Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Buddhism (p.422-436)	N/A
November 12, 2025	Part V. Christianity in Asia	Chidester, Chapters 25—Asian Heavens and 26—Hindu Christians Supplementary Readings: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 6—South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism (p. 266-285) and 8—East Asian Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Buddhism (p.422-436)	N/A
November 14, 2025	Part V. Christianity in Asia	Chidester, Chapters 25—Asian Heavens and 26—Hindu Christians Supplementary Readings: (*) Esposito, et al. Chapter 6—South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism (p. 266-285) and 8—East Asian Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Buddhism (p.422-436)	Reading Response 6
November 17, 2025	Part V. Contemporary Christianity	Chidester, Chapter 29—Cold War	N/A
November 19, 2025	Part V. Contemporary Christianity	Chidester, Chapter 29—Cold War	N/A
November 21, 2025	Part V. Contemporary Christianity	Chidester, Chapter 29—Cold War	N/A
November 24, 2025	Thanksgiving Week	No Class	N/A
November 26, 2025	Thanksgiving Week	No Class	N/A
November 28, 2025	Thanksgiving Week	No Class	N/A
December 1, 2025	Review	N/A	N/A

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
December 3, 2025	N/A	No Class	N/A
December 5, 2025	Reading Day	No Class	N/A
December 8, 2025	Final Exam	N/A	Final Exam via Canvas

## V. Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Mario Poceski ([mpoceski@ufl.edu](mailto:mpoceski@ufl.edu), 3522732937). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1261).