

HONORS: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND CONFLICTS IN WORLD RELIGIONS
RELS-H295-033
SPRING 2009
TR 11:00 – 12:15 Bobet 216

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Course description: This seminar will examine the characteristics of premodern, modern, and post-modern religious traditions in the world, and contemporary issues and conflicts that arise as a result of these different orientations to religious faith and life. Issues and conflicts that will be explored include: traditional religions in diaspora; roles of women and women’s religious leadership in religions; the international radical Islamist movement and responses to it by Muslims and members of other religions; conflicts in the Middle East, India, and the People’s Republic of China; “fundamentalist” responses to modernity and post-modernity; religion and politics; the impact of millennial movements; conflicts between religious believers and States; the relation of “cults” or new religious movements to mainstream societies; religiously motivated environmentalism.

Issue: A point or matter of discussion, debate, or dispute; A matter of public concern.

Conflict: A state of open, often prolonged fighting, a battle or war; A state of disharmony between incompatible or antithetical persons, ideas, or interests—a clash; *Psychol.* A psychic struggle resulting from the opposition or simultaneous functioning of mutually exclusive impulses, desires, or tendencies. [American Heritage College Dictionary]

Assigned Readings:

John L. Esposito, Darrell J. Fasching, and Todd Lewis, *Religion and Globalization: World Religions in Historical Perspective* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008). ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS

Selected Articles. HAND-OUT

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| T Jan. 13 | <u>Introductory class.</u>
Course structure and requirements; basic terms for the study of religion; contemporary issues and conflicts. |
| R Jan. 15 | <u>Introduction: Categories and Issues</u>
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 1-35. |
| T Jan. 20 | QUIZ #1: Introduction
<u>Christianity and the Road to Globalization: Overview of Issues; Premodern Expressions</u>
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 37-70. |
| R Jan. 22 | <u>Christianity and Modernity; Postmodern Trends</u>
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 70-107. |

- T Jan. 27 Issues and Conflicts Involving Christianity
 HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, "Women's Religious Leadership in the United States"
 MOVIE: "Church and State: Christianity, Religious Diversity, and Secular Humanism in America" (28 minutes)
 Continued discussion of issues and conflicts involving Christianity.
- R Jan. 29 **TERM PAPER TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADE OF PAPERS IF THE TOPIC IS NOT APPROVED BY THIS DATE.**
 QUIZ #2: Christianity
Judaism and Globalization: Overview of Issues; Premodern
 ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 109-55.
- T Feb. 3 Judaism and Modernity: Postmodern Trends
 ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 156-83.
- R Feb. 5 Issues and Conflicts Involving Judaism
 HAND-OUT: David Redles, "National Socialist Millennialism," typescript, 1-36.
 HAND-OUT: Deborah Lipstadt, "Canaries in the Mine: Holocaust Denial and the Limited Power of Reason," 11-31.
 MOVIE: "Anti-Semitism in the 21st Century: The Resurgence" (57 min.)
 Continued discussion of issues and conflicts involving Christianity.
- T Feb. 10 QUIZ #3: Judaism
 Review for Mid-Term Exam.
- R Feb. 12 EXAM #1 (One discussion question counting 25 pts., and 10 identifications counting 5 pts. each.)
- T Feb. 17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE DUE FOR THE TERM PAPER. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL TERM PAPER IF THESE ARE LATE.**
Islam and Globalization; Overview of Issues; Premodernity
 ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 187-237.
- R Feb. 19 Islam and Modernity: Postmodern Trends
 ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 237-81.
- T Feb. 24 OFF MARDI GRAS
- R Feb. 26 NO CLASS
- T Mar. 3 Issues and Conflicts Involving Islam: The Iranian Islamic Revolution
 GUEST: Dr. Behrooz Moazami
 Reading assignment to be announced.
- R Mar. 5 Issues and Conflicts Involving Islam
 HAND-OUT: Jeffrey T. Kenney, "Millennialism and Radical Islamist Movements," Typescript, pp. 1-42.
 MOVIE: "Edward Said on Orientalism" (40 min.) DVD-000447

[F Mar. 6 – M-T Grades due]

- T Mar. 10 QUIZ #4: Islam
Hinduism and Globalization; Overview of Issues; Premodern
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 287-321.
- R Mar. 12 Hinduism and Modernity; Postmodern Trends; Contemporary Practices and Issues
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 321-62.
- T Mar. 17 Issues and Conflicts Involving Hinduism
HAND-OUT: Thomas Blom Hansen, "Recuperating Masculinity: Hindu Nationalism, Violence and the Exorcism of the Muslim 'Other,'" 137-72.
MOVIE: "Ganges: River to Heaven" (52 min.)
Continued discussion of issues and conflicts involving Hinduism.
- R Mar. 19 QUIZ #5: Hinduism
Buddhism and Globalization; Overview of Issues; Premodernity
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 367-402.
- T Mar. 24 **ROUGH DRAFT OF TERM PAPER IS DUE. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE OF THE FINAL PAPER IF THE ROUGH DRAFT IS LATE.**
Buddhism and Modernity; Postmodern Trends
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 402-37.
- R Mar. 26 Issues and Conflicts Involving Buddhism
HAND-OUT: Robert H. Sharf, "The Zen of Japanese Nationalism," 1-43.
MOVIE: "A Stranger in My Native Land" (33 min.) [on Tibet]
- T Mar. 31 QUIZ #6: Buddhism
East Asian Religions and Globalization; Overview of Issues; Premodern
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 439-73.
- R Apr. 2 East Asian Religions and Modernity; Postmodern Trends and Contemporary Practices
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 473-21.
- T Apr. 7 OFF – SPRING BREAK
- R Apr. 9 OFF – SPRING BREAK
- T Apr. 14 Issues and Conflicts Involving East Asian Religions
HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, "1995-Aum Shinrikyo," 120-57.
HAND-OUT: Gareth Fisher, "Resistance and Salvation in Falun Gong: The Promise and Peril of Forbearance," 294-311.
HAND-OUT: Bryan Edelman and James T. Richardson, "Falun Gong and the Law: Development of Legal Social Control in China," 312-31.
- R Apr. 16 QUIZ #7: East Asian Religions
New Religious Movements: Globalization and Issues
ESPOSITO-FASCHING-LEWIS, 523-53.
- M Apr. 20 VIEWING OF MOVIE OUTSIDE CLASS: "Waco: The Rules of Engagement" (136 min). Location to be announced.
- T Apr. 21 New Religious Movements and Violence
HAND-OUT: Catherine Wessinger, "New Religious Movements and Violence," 165-205.
Reflection essay on the movie viewed outside of class due (10 pts.). 5 pts. deducted from the grade of the paper if it is turned in late.

- R Apr. 23 QUIZ #8: New Religious Movements
Discussion of Term Paper Research
TERM PAPERS ARE DUE ON THIS DATE. 5 PTS. WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL GRADES OF PAPERS THAT ARE TURNED IN LATE. TO BE COUNTED ON TIME, THE STUDENT SHOULD TURN IN ONE HARD COPY AND UPLOAD THE FILE TO THE DIGITAL DROP-BOX.
- T Apr. 28 Continued Discussion of Term Paper Research & Review for Exam
- Final Exam Tuesday, May 5, 11:30 – 1:30**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two exams (Mid-Term and Final) counting 75 pts. each, constituting one-half of the final grade. The remaining one-half of the final grade will consist of a term paper (45 pts); seven true-false quizzes (counting 5 pts. each, for a total of 35 pts.); one reflection paper, counting 10 pts.; class attendance and discussion (30 pts.); and participation on the discussion board (30 pts.). The final grade will be based on 300 possible pts.

The grading scale: 300 pts.

A - 92%	276-300
B - 83%	249-275.5
C - 71%	213-248.5
D - 65%	195-212.5

Exams

Each exam will consist of one discussion question counting 25 pts. and ten identifications counting five points each. Therefore, each exam counts a total of 75 pts.

There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of severe illness or a family emergency, in which case the instructor should be notified at once.

Quizzes

Each quiz will consist of 10 true-false statements counting 1/2 pt. each, so each quiz is worth 5 pts. Seven quizzes are worth 35 pts. A total of 8 quizzes will be given during the semester.

There will be no make-up quizzes. A total of 8 true-false quizzes will be given during the semester. At the end of the semester, the lowest true-false quiz score will be dropped. If you miss a class during which a true-false quiz was administered, that missed quiz will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss more than one true-false quiz, your grade will be diminished accordingly.

For your convenience, the approximate dates for the quizzes are given on the syllabus. However, if these dates are changed by the instructor, you are responsible for being prepared to take the quiz, even if you missed the previous class in which the quiz date was announced.

Class Discussion

Contemporary Issues and Conflicts is an Honors seminar. Therefore, class attendance and participation in discussion is crucial. This is *not* a lecture-format course. Class participation and discussion will be graded on a scale of 30 pts. (15 pts. first half of semester; 15 pts. second half of semester). In order to participate in class discussion, it is crucial that the reading assignments be completed *prior* to attending class. Regular attendance is part of the discussion grade.

Reflection Paper

One movie, “Waco: The Rules of Engagement” (136 min.), will be viewed outside of class. The class may watch it on Monday night, April 20, in a location to be announced. Or the movie (on reserve in the library) may be viewed on your own. A reflection paper (counting 10 pts.) on your reaction to the movie is **due on Tuesday, April 21. 5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the paper if it is turned in late.**

Term Paper

The term paper, counting 45 pts., will consist of 10-12 pages typewritten and double-spaced on a topic selected by the student that has been approved by the instructor. The term paper should focus on contemporary issues or conflicts in relation to one of the world religions, or between religious traditions. Crucial dates relative to the term paper are given below.

Students will share what they learned in their term paper research in class on April 23 and 28. This discussion will count toward the discussion grade.

The term paper topic must be approved by January 29 by the instructor. 5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper if the topic is not approved by this date.

February 17 is the deadline for turning in the bibliography and outline for the term paper. If the bibliography and outline are turned in late, 5 pts. will be deducted from the grade of the term paper.

A rough draft of the term paper is due on March 24. 5 pts. will be deducted from the final grade of the term paper if the rough draft is turned in late. The rough draft will not be graded. The instructor will read the rough draft, provide comments on how it can be improved, and then return the paper to the student.

Term papers are due April 23. 5 points will be deducted from the grade of late term papers. Turn in one hard copy of the term paper, and upload the electronic file to the digital drop box in Blackboard to be counted on time.

The term paper should contain no typographical errors or misspelled words. The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected if these are present.

Plagiarism

The student should note Loyola’s policy on plagiarism in the Undergraduate Bulletin. A student who is found to have committed plagiarism in a term paper may be given a failing grade for that course. A second instance of plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the university.

The Undergraduate Bulletin defines plagiarism as “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own.” “Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own.”

Students should not copy sentences from a book directly into their term papers. The only exception is when

such sentences are properly identified as quotations and the proper references are given. Direct quotations and extended block quotations should be a minimal part of your term paper. In writing the term paper for this or any other Loyola course, plagiarism should be carefully avoided.

Gender Inclusive Language

It is important that the student remember to use gender inclusive language when writing her or his term paper. The student should make the effort to use terms such as humans, human beings, persons, etc., in place of the generic "man." The grade of the term paper will be adversely affected by the use of sexist language.

Discussion Board

30 pts. may be earned by participating regularly on the course discussion-board. The instructor will post questions there for consideration and make announcements on the discussion-board. Students should feel free to post their own questions, observations, and news items on the discussion-board. To participate fully on the discussion-board, students should log in and leave a thoughtful message twice a week. The instructor will read the postings and note which ones indicate that the student is thinking deeply about the topics being studied in the class.

Policy on Laptops in the Classroom

It has become evident that with the introduction of wireless access to the Internet, laptops have been used as distractions in the classroom. If the instructor becomes aware that the student is using the laptop to surf the Web or check email, the student will lose the privilege of using the laptop in the classroom for the rest of the semester. Laptops must be closed when movies are shown.

Policy on Cell Phones and Text-Messaging

The student should make every effort to turn off his or her cell phone before entering the classroom. Any student observed text-messaging in class will be counted absent for that class period.

Disability Services

A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive text accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.