



REL 101: Religion, Culture, and Public Life

Overview

Religion continues to be a site of conflict, confusion and controversy. It maintains a space in the modern world that is either perceived as a source of peace and morality or as an unnecessary and obsolete source of conflict. In this course, students will discuss the many facets of religion in a globalizing world. We will examine why religion persists in its various forms across the globe. In addition, we will analyze the ways that religion interacts and engages within the public realm, in both positive and negative formats. Identity, politics, gender, technology, and media are just a few of the places where we will find religion and religious influence.

What You'll Learn

- Summarize the nature and scope of religious studies
- Explain the historical development of the concept of religion
- Describe the key methodological approaches to studying religion
- Analyze cultural assumptions about what constitutes rituals and religions
- Identify the ways that religious authority is constructed
- Analyze how religion, gender, race, and power intersect
- Determine how loyalties to nation-state, global identity, and religious commitments intersect
- Analyze how “indigenous religion or spirituality” (re)emerge as resources for environmentalism
- Explore the future of technology and religion

How to Succeed

To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy. We also encourage you to make sure your laptop or desktop computer meets the [technical requirements](#).

Earn College Credit

This course appears on your transcript identically to how it appears on the transcript of an enrolled ASU student.

This course satisfies 3 credit hours toward the Humanities (HU) and Global Awareness (G) General Studies requirements at Arizona State University. It is strongly encouraged that you consult with your institution of choice to determine how these credits will be applied.

In order to receive academic credit for this course, you must earn a grade of “C” or better. You have one year to add the course to your transcript.

Exams and Grading

4%

Reflections

28%

Discussions

34%

Quizzes

34%

Project Parts

REL 101: Continued

Time Commitment

This is an asynchronous, online course. This means, while you will have deadlines, you do not need to be at your computer at specific times or participate in live activities.

To be successful in this class, you must view all course pages and complete all graded work by the deadlines indicated. Also, keep in mind that "attendance" in an online course means logging into the platform on a regular basis, checking for course announcements, and visiting and participating in the discussion forums.

This 3 credit, 8 week course requires about 135 hours of work. Therefore, expect to spend approximately 15-20 hours per week preparing for and engaging in this course.

Materials

This course makes use of open educational resources (OERs) provided within the course, **no purchase necessary**.

Graded Assignments

Graded assignments are required and count towards your final grade. Students must submit all assignments via the course site unless otherwise instructed.

Discussions (28%): There are a series of discussion prompts and activities in each of the modules to support their learning. Discussions typically require one post and two replies by the due date. Discussion occur frequently in this course as a way of immediately engaging with material addressed in videos and readings.

Quizzes (34%): There are six quizzes worth 100 points each. The quizzes are open book and must be completed by you. The quizzes include 19 to 20 questions, which may be multiple choice, multiple answer, or true/false. Each quiz is based on the readings, lectures, and video materials for the module.

Module Assignments (34%): Each of the six modules conclude with an assignment to help you prepare for your final project. Over the duration of the course, you will plan and conduct an interview on a subject of your choice regarding religion. Your interview can span a variety of topics and include an interview with a religious leader, or someone who is otherwise impacted by or experiences spiritual or religious practices.

Assignment Deadlines

Your instructional team will provide all content and learning activities on or through your course site. It is your responsibility to review all content, fulfill all assignments on time, and ask any questions you have in the designated discussion area. It is also your responsibility to determine the due dates and times for all course assignments according to your time zone. Due to the large-scale format of Universal Learner Courses, late assignments will not be accepted at any point during the course, and we cannot make exceptions.

Course Communication

All communication will take place via the discussion forums and course announcement page. There will be a discussion forum where you can post general questions, comments, and direct inquiries for the instructor and course team. Please use these forums to ensure a timely response. Your instructor will not be able to respond to email.

Additional Information

If you have questions about Universal Learner Courses and how they work, please visit ea.asu.edu or contact our support team at ulcourses@asu.edu.