Religion & Society
REL 3140
Spring 2018

Classroom: MAT 0012
Class Schedule: 
   Tuesdays—period 5-6 (11:45am-1:40pm)
   Thursdays—period 6 (12:50-1:40pm)

Instructor: Victoria Machado
Email: vickie7@ufl.edu
Office: Anderson Hall 119
Office Hours: 
   Tuesdays—period 4 (10:40am-11:30 am)
   Thursdays—period 4-5 (10:40am-12:35pm)

Course Description:
Religion does not exist alone, rather it is interwoven into many areas of life. This course recognizes this complexity and seeks to investigate the confluence of religion and society within the United States. Collectively, this class will set out on an intellectual journey through the various facets of religion and society in order to uncover what lies at the nexus of these two regions. This course focuses heavily on spatial understandings of religion, including the physical place, journeying into public-private ideas of religion, however it will also venture into the conceptual spheres of how we understand religion and its role in the United States. In this sense, we will “map” religion through present preconceived notions of how we view it as well as cases that disrupt stereotypes, by looking at instances where religion disengages seemingly established boundaries.

This course encourages students to confront their understandings of religion and move beyond these ideas to tackle religion within a new, academically engaged paradigm. We will discover that politics, resistance, and the struggle between public-private spaces envelops much of this discussion.

NOTE: This course fulfills the requirement for a Diversity credit as well as a 2000 word count.

Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
  • Effectively express the social relations and roles of religion
  • Identify ways in which religion engages with the world both in a traditional sense and in more contemporary ways
  • Connect academic literature to current events
  • Discuss a wide range of perspectives that uphold religion in various milieus
  • Synthesize a variety of material into manageable topics of discussion
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<tr>
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<td>Paper #2/ Presentation</td>
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<td>Paper #3/ Presentation</td>
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<td>Drafts</td>
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<td>Attendance/Participation (quizzes, in-class activities, discussion)</td>
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Grading Scale

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Course Material:
All readings can be accessed via e-learning, ARES, or online articles.

**What is Religion?**
Tuesday Jan 9: Introductions/Overview of Class

Thursday Jan 11: Understanding Religion apart from Religion
Watch: The Leftovers season 1, episode 1 preview (2:40 min)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLT3YUALJno

Tuesday Jan 16: Classic Definitions of Religion
- Discuss Robert Orsi Religion Defined
- “Religion as a Cultural System” –Clifford Geertz
http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/religionasaculturalsystem-geertz.pdf

Thursday Jan 18: Lived Religion

**Religion & Culture (2 weeks)**

Tuesday Jan 23: Early immigration
- “The American Setting” (Chapter 4) From Buddhism in America (1999)- Richard Seager

Thursday Jan 25: Crossing Space & Time: Exile and Refugees

Tuesday Jan 30: Foreigners in a Home Land
- Jewish Immigration to America: Three Waves –Joellyn Zollman
https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-immigration-to-america-three-waves/

Guest Speaker

Thursday Feb 1: Today’s Immigration Trends in a Spatial World
- Discuss “Space” Form Material Religion Vol 7 Issue 1 –Thomas Tweed
- Additional Reading TBD

**Religion & Politics**

Tuesday Feb 6: American Civil Religion
- Discuss “American Civil Religion” (1967) –Robert Bellah
http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm
Thursday Feb 8: The Moral Majority & the Emerging Church
- Discuss “2017 Has Been a Rough Year for Evangelicals” From NPR 
  https://www.npr.org/2017/12/29/574590758/2017-has-been-a-rough-year-for-evangelicals
- “The Theological Origins of the Christian Right” from Andrew Preston’s Faithful Republic Religion & Politics in Modern America –Molly Worthen
- “Chapter 8 The Gospel of Liberation” From Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism –Molly Worthen

Additional Readings:
- Camp Meeting: at the Wild Goose Festival (2011) From The Christian Century Foundation 
  http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&sid=8a484d98-0cb8-4132-a714-0428e3c6abf0%40pdc-v-sessmgr01
- “A Match Made in Heaven” From The Atlantic, Published May 1, 2017 –Molly Worthen

Tuesday Feb 13: The Catholic Worker Movement
- Discuss “A Brief Introduction to the Catholic Worker Movement” –Tom Cornell 
  http://www.catholicworker.org/cornell-history.html
- The Final Word is Love,” Postscript from The Long Loneliness (1952) --Dorothy Day 
  http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/articles/867.html
- CW Early History

Thursday Feb 15: Christian Anarchy & Holy Mischief
- Discuss “Christian Anarchism” from All the Way to Heaven: A Theological Reflection on Dorothy Day, Peter Maurin and the Catholic Worker – Lawrence Holben
- “Christo-anarchism is a move toward non-domination” From Geez Magazine Winter 2012, Published Nov 2012 –Mark Van Steenwyk 

Paper # 1 Due

**Religion & the Environment** (2 weeks)
Thursday Feb 20: Religious Environmentalism
- The Greening of Religion (chapter 4) From The Rights of Nature (1989) -Roderick Nash

Additional Readings:
• The Greening of Philosophy (chapter 5) From *The Rights of Nature* (1989) - Roderick Nash

Thursday Feb 22: When Land is more than Land
• “Stalking with Stories” From Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache – Keith Basso

Tuesday Feb 27: Prayerful Activism
http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&sid=2b47e0eb-967f-4e96-872e-e3af534c8f07%40sessionmgr4007
• Check out https://www.jewishclimate.org/#home

Additional Readings:
• Introduction and Chapter One From *Laudato Si On Care for Our Common Home* – Pope Francis https://laudatosi.com/
• “Bill McKibben on faith and the Church” From EcoTheoReview (March 2014) – Taylor Brorby http://www.ecotheo.org/2014/03/bill-mckibben-on-faith-and-the-church/

Thursday Mar 1: Prayerful Activism (continued)
• Discuss Islamic Basis for Environmental Ethics From ERN
• Discuss Islam From ERN
**Guest Presentation on Islam & Nature**

*Paper Workshop #2*

SPRING BREAK March 3-10

**Religion & Expression**

Tuesday Mar 13: Folk Art
• Discuss “Southern Religion & Visionary Art” (chapter 5) From *Judgment & Grace in Dixie: Southern Faith from Faulker to Elvis* (1995) – Charles Regan Wilson
• “Paradise Regained” From *Atlanta* (2013) – Betsy Riley
• Leonard Knight’s Salvation Mountain From *Virginia Quarterly Review* (2013)- Aaron Huey

Thursday March 15: Folk Art (continued)

“Salvation Mountain Artist Has Blessings Bestowed on His Work; Landmark: Labor of Love in the desert is deemed a national folk art shrine” From LA Times (April 2002) –Tony Perry

Tuesday March 20: Student Presentations of Paper #2

- Readings TBA
- For next class—Bring in an example of popular individualistic expression that combines the sacred and the profane. Think music, art, literature, clothing, etc. Have the example and an explanation ready for Thursday's discussion. Come prepared!

Paper #2 Due

Thursday March 22: Individual Self-Expression (continued)

Class directed discussion


Additional Readings:

- “Music Sacred and Profane: Exploring the Use of Popular Music in Evangelical Worship Service” From The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture 24:3 (Fall 2012) –April Vega

Religion & Gender

Tuesday March 27: Religion as Women’s Sphere

- Discuss “Women's History Is American Religious History” -- Ann Braude

Thursday March 29: Men's Spheres

- Discuss That Religion in Which All Men Agree: Freemasonry in American Culture –David Hackett

Tuesday April 3: Queer Religion/ Gender is Over

- Discuss “Penguin Family Values: The Nature of Planetary Environmental Reproductive Justice” From Catriona Sandilands' Queer Ecologies –Noel Sturgeon (will upload)
- Introduction from Catriona Sandilands' Queer Ecologies
Thursday April 5: Paper Workshop #3
  • Readings TBA
  Discussion of FINAL Presentations

Religion & Community
Tuesday April 10: Tolerance and Community
  • Discuss excerpt from Southern Crescent (2017)–Matt Hartley

Thursday April 12: Communal Living Gandhian influences
  • Discuss Chapter One Examining Change from Living Sustainably (2017)–Whitney Sanford (will upload)

Concluding Remarks, Synthesis, & Final Paper
Tuesday April 17: Class Evaluations / Overview discussion / Final Paper #3 Due

Thursday April 19: FINAL Presentations

Tuesday April 24: FINAL Presentations / Last Remarks

Course Policies:
Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.

b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007 <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without providing the exact location from which it came

Classroom Behavior
Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Most of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics
and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

**Laptops are only open for composing research or reading. No Internet surfing during class.**

**Attendance Policies**
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this class are consistent with university policies that can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Please Note: If you are absent it is still your responsibility to make yourself aware of all due dates. You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

**In-Class Work**
Papers are due at the beginning of class and on-line at the assigned deadline. Late papers will not be accepted. **Failure of technology is not an excuse.**

Participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in small groups and participate in group discussions, and other in-class activities. Be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. Students must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up.

**Paper Maintenance Responsibilities**
Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student’s responsibility to have and to make available this material.

**Mode of Submission**
All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and every page should include your name. If a source has been used in a paper, it **must** be cited on a references page.

*Every* paper will be submitted as MS Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents to Canvas by the due date and time. Save and submit all papers in Canvas using the following file name: lastname3104Paper1 (machado3104Paper1). **ALL papers require an online AND paper copy submission. An assignment will be considered late without BOTH forms of submission and points will be deducted.**

**A letter grade will be subtracted for every 12 hours a paper is late.**

**Course Evaluations**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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.

**Writing Studio**
The University Writing Studio is located in Tigert 302 and is available to all UF students.

**Students with Disabilities**
The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**An Important Note about Writing**
Structurally, all papers should have a thesis and be well organized with strong topic sentences and appropriate word choice. They should use appropriate punctuation, spelling and grammar. Furthermore, each paper should be in MLA format and include both in text citations and a works cited page. On a more comprehensive level, they should answer the question with enough details to show a strong basis of understanding.