

NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN THE U.S.

COMPARATIVE RELIGION 370

Section: 20103

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James Santucci

OFFICE: UH-312
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Thursday: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
ONLINE HOUR: Monday: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

[I will be online and available for immediate response to any question you may have during the Online Hours.]

CONTACT: Email: jsantucci@fullerton.edu
Telephone: 657-278-3727(office); 278-2442(Dept.)

[The best way to communicate is through email. I generally respond within the hour. I do receive telephone messages through email, so I would encourage you to leave a message should you call. I will respond as quickly as possible.]

TIME OF CLASS: TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM
ROOM: Hum 224

REQUIRED TEXT:
JENKINS, PHILIP, *MYSTICS AND MESSIAHS: CULTS AND NEW RELIGIONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY*. NY: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2000. ISBN 0-19-514596-8.

Additional material will be made available on the Website.

The book is available at the [Little Professor Text Books](#),
725 North Placentia Avenue, Fullerton.
Tel.: 714-996-3133.

Hours: 10:00 am - 7:00 p.m. (M-F); 10:00 am - 5:00 p.m. (S).

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: New Religious Movements in the U.S.A. (3)

Beliefs, history, ritual and organizational make-up of non-traditional modern religions in America, such as Scientology, the Unification Church, Hare Krishna (ISKCON) and Rajneeshism as presented by guest speakers. Discussion of “cult,” “sect” and the occult will comprise portion of course.

OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of the course is to acquaint the student with those religious or quasi-religious groups that are generally identified as new religious movements (and pejoratively “cults” or “sects”). NRMs are generally viewed as movements of recent origin, generally the 1960s, although exceptions are made for those groups that have demonstrated exceptional importance, such as Mormonism, Spiritualism, Christian

Science, and New Thought. There will be an attempt to place the organization and its teachings in some context to make both as understandable as possible. Since viewing the religion from the 'inside' is considered crucial in gaining an accurate and fair assessment of the organization, the usual practice will be to have guest speakers representing the religious groups address the class. With this in mind, it is the primary goal of the course to provide information on the group under discussion, not to pass judgment on its teachings and practices.

MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION:

A. Mission

To describe and interpret the developments, worldviews, and practices of religious traditions in a non-sectarian, academic manner for the benefit of students, faculty from other fields, and the greater Orange County community.

B. Goals

1. To offer classes in the world's religions within the General Education framework and for majors and minors;
2. To teach in a scholarly and non-sectarian manner;
3. To conduct scholarly research that contributes to an understanding of the varieties of religious thought and experience;
4. To investigate in a scholarly manner the impact of the varieties of religious thought and experience on contemporary society.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION LEARNING GOALS & OUTCOMES APPLIED TO THIS COURSE

All students majoring in Religious Studies shall achieve competence in the following domains of skill and knowledge:

A. Skills

Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.

Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.

Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.

Outcome 4: Students are able to speak clearly and effectively using relevant and adequate supporting evidence.

B. Knowledge

Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.

Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the

- principal similarities and differences between them.
- Outcome 6: Students are able to identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance.
- (Outcome 7: Students can compare key theories and theorists in the study of religion. [*Not applied to this course.*])
- (Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions. [*Not applied to this course.*])

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students should be familiar with the following:

- 1) A working definition of “religion,” “new religious movement,” “cult,” and “sect”;
- 2) The practices and teachings of a selected number of groups identified as new religious movements, cults, or sects;

WEBSITE: TITANium

Online course information is available in TITANium. Go to <http://www.fullerton.edu> and click on My Portal. Students are expected to read the latest news each week during the duration of the course and should be familiar with the following resources: Contact the Help Desk (657) 278-7777 for Technical Difficulties

****It is recommended you use a current web browser.**

For information on TITANium, go to

http://www.fullerton.edu/ittraining/other/moodle/tutorials/Titanium_Student_Tutorial/Titanium_Student_Tutorial.htm

NOTE: Further information is available on the banner page of the class TITANium Website.

REQUIREMENTS

A. RESEARCH PAPER (60% of final grade).

The research paper will provide a study of a "modern," "non-traditional," or "unconventional" religion in one or more of its manifestations (beliefs, rites, history, organization). Such a study will be based upon primary and secondary sources originating from both within the religious group and outside the same. Interviews and any type of verbal communication may also be cited so long as it is academically sound.

Other subjects may also be open for further study. For instance, many ancient practices and philosophies appear in a number of "non-traditional" religious groups. Examples of such philosophies may include Gnosticism, Neoplatonism, Vedanta, and Yoga. Practices, such as astrology, tarot reading, magic, are also not uncommon. These practices and beliefs may also be investigated.

The length of the paper should be between 15 and 20 pages (typed and double-spaced), including a bibliography and footnotes. Since the paper is worth 60% of the total grade, I would like to monitor your work as much as possible. Certain dates will be set aside for either a discussion of the paper or for specific work required by me. All papers

must be submitted to **Turnitin.com**.

September 19: Turn in a title or subject area that you would like to explore. If you are not sure what to do, review the above-mentioned books for ideas and write a brief paragraph on an area in which you are interested. The only limitation imposed is that you NOT write on a group in which you are a member (2/60 points).

October 10: Bibliographies, outlines, and a one-page description of the goals and objectives of the paper must be turned in (3/60 points).

October 31: Bring your rough draft to class. This is an important class, so I expect to be in class with their draft. The activities are worth 10 points (4/60 points).

December 12: **Submit to Turnitin** (the link is on the Website). (40/60)

December 3, 5, 10, and 12:

The student must present a 10 to 15 minute summary of the paper to the class. Participation on the part of the class is required (10/60).

Submission of the final paper (no later than December 12).

December 17: Papers will be returned and reviewed. This is the Final Exam period, which will be held from 9:30-11:20 am (Tuesday). The period will be devoted to the papers.

B. ONE-TWO PAGE SUMMARY OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS' PRESENTATION (20% of final grade)

The one to two-page summary (for each speaker or field trip) should be typed and double-spaced. It should include the main points that the speaker(s) wished to convey plus any observation based upon your reading that you believe important in understanding the organization. You must submit BY:

December 5: Summaries of speakers must be submitted no later than this date.

C. ASSIGNMENTS (20%)

Four assignments will be given, based upon various sources. The assignments will be given on the Website. The dates for submission are as follows:

1. Assignment 1: September 19

2. **Assignment 2: October 17**
3. **Assignment 3: November 14**
4. **Assignment 4: December 10**

[Submission to Assignment link on class Website.]

There is no Extra Credit option.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability or special need for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please inform me and contact the Disabled Student Services Office, located in University Hall 101, as early as possible in the term. For more information, the Disabled Student Services Office can be reached by calling (714) 278-3117 or visit their website at www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/. Confidentiality will be protected.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

"Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the university. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the university, policies on academic integrity are strictly enforced. I expect that you will familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current student handbook."

DISRUPTIVE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Disruptive behavior may include the following

1. The student who persistently arrives late or leaves early;
2. The student who talks incessantly during a lecture;
3. The student who loudly and frequently interrupts the flow of class with questions or interjections;
4. The student who becomes belligerent when confronted with his or her inappropriate behavior in class.

"Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and instructors' ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem, and may be reported to the Dean of Students Office, Judicial Affairs for further action."

NETIQUETTE:

Please be courteous to me and to fellow students at all times. Write the email as if you are writing a letter. Avoid abbreviations; use polite language; **always** identify yourself by including your full name and the class you are in (CPRL 370). Unsigned and unidentified emails may not be answered.

CELLPHONES and OTHER DEVICES:

They must be turned off or silenced during class. If you leave it on and rings, I will let

it pass the first time. After that, I will deduct 5 points from the final grade or ask you to leave the class if this is persistent.

GRADING POLICY:

According to UPS 300.020, letter grades and their corresponding values are listed as follows:

A+		4.0	(98-100%)
A	Outstanding	4.0	(93-97%)
A-		3.7	(90-92%)
B+		3.3	(88-89%)
B	Good	3.0	(83-87%)
B-		2.7	(80-82%)
C+		2.3	(78-79%)
C	Acceptable	2.0	(73-77%)
C-		1.7	(70-72%)
D+		1.3	(68-69%)
D	Poor	1.0	(63-67%)
D-		0.7	(60-62%)
F	Failing	0.0	(Below 60%)

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

August 19:	Academic year begins
August 24:	First day of classes
September 2:	Labor Day: CAMPUS CLOSED
October 14:	Columbus Day – CAMPUS OPEN
November 11:	Veterans Day: CAMPUS CLOSED
Nov. 25 – Dec. 1:	Fall Recess: NO CLASSES CAMPUS OPEN 11/25-27 CAMPUS CLOSED 11/28-29
December 13:	Last Day of Classes
December 14-20:	Semester Examinations (12/17-20)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html

<p>EMERGENCY CALLSDIAL 9-1-1 All campus phones and cell phones on campus reach the University Police Department Campus Operation and Emergency Closure Line:</p>

(657) 278-4444
24-hour recorded emergency information line:
(657) 278-0911

Schedule

[A more detailed schedule will be available on TITANium online]

Week & Days	Assignments and Due Dates
Week 1 Monday 8/26/2013 – Sunday 9/1	Introduction to the Course Religion: What Is It? <i>Reading:</i> Jenkins, <i>Mystics and Messiahs</i> , Ch. 1 (pp. 3-24)
Week 2 Monday 9/2 – Sunday 9/8 Labor Day 9/2	Overview of New Religious Movements <i>Reading:</i> Jenkins, <i>Mystics and Messiahs</i> , Ch. 2 (pp. 25-45)
Week 3 Monday 9/9 – Sunday 9/15	Tuesday: September 10: SPEAKER Dr. Carmon Hardy, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of History “Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints”
Week 4 Monday 9/16 – Sunday 9/22	Tuesday: September 17: SPEAKER Mr. Frank Sabia “Baha’i” Assignment 1: September 19 September 19: Turn in a title or subject area that you would like to explore.
Week 5 Monday 9/23 – Sunday 9/29	Thursday: October 3: SPEAKER Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Chang Senior Minister Founder's Center for Spiritual Living. [Founder’s Church of Religious Science] <i>Reading:</i> Jenkins, <i>Mystics and Messiahs</i> , Ch. 3 (pp. 46-69)

Week 6 Monday 9/30 – Sunday 10/6	<i>Reading:</i> Jenkins, <i>Mystics and Messiahs</i> , Ch. 4 (pp. 70-99)
Week 7 Monday 10/7 – Sunday 10/13	October 10: Turn in bibliographies, outlines, and a one-page description of the paper
Week 8 Monday 10/14 – Sunday 10/20	Assignment 2: October 17
Week 9 Monday 10/21 – Sunday 10/27	
Week 10 Monday 10/28 – Sunday 11/3	October 31: Bring your rough draft to class.
Week 11 Monday 11/4 – Sunday 11/10	Tuesday: November 5: SPEAKER Ms Janet Weiland Church of Scientology International
Week 12 Monday 11/11 – Sunday 11/17 <i>Veteran's Day</i> <i>Nov. 11</i>	Assignment 3: November 14
Week 13 Monday 11/18 – Sunday 11/24	
Monday 11/25 – Sunday 12/1	
Week 14 Monday 12/2 – Sunday 12/8	Dec. 5: Submit research paper to Turnitin December 5: Submit speaker summaries December 3 & 5: Class Presentations
Week 15	Assignment 4: December 10

Monday 12/9 – Friday 12/13	December 10 & 12: Class Presentations
<i>Final Exam</i> December 17: 9:30 – 11:20 am	Papers will be returned and reviewed.