

CPRL 400: Religion, Media, and Contemporary Culture



CPRL 400-50 17580 (asynchronous-fully online) Dr. Jeanette Reedy Solano Fall 2021

Office Hours: online-Monday eves: 9:00-11:00 pm (rapid response email or BBB)

In-person office hours: Tuesdays 1-2:00 pm-GH 311 or outside at tables next to Aloha Java

Burning Questions behind the course:

What types of dynamics exist between religion and media: reflexive, reactionary, creative? How is religiosity evolving in contemporary culture? How are religious groups and spiritual seekers using social media and the internet to create spiritual community? How has religiosity evolved in the 21st century in the USA—are we more secular or "Spiritual, But Not Religious?" How does the media shape our image of the religious "Other" or religious minority? Are most TV news anchors and journalists qualified to report on religion? How does religion inform and inspire television dramas and popular cultural media? If these, or similar questions, keep you up at night, then RLST 400 is the perfect online discussion-based course for you!

Course Aims/Objectives:

As forms of media rapidly expand in the 21st century this course is evolving beyond our official CSUF catalog course description: "Religion reporting in the secular media, the religious press in America; the influence of the media, both secular and religious, on the shaping of society's values; ethical dilemmas faced by reporters." These issues and forms of media will still be included, however as digital media options have expanded, so have the media we consider in this class. Many methods will be employed in our analysis: media studies, cultural studies, religious studies, et al. The course has set readings and topics; however it is also designed to allow to pursue what you are most passionate about or intrigued by: perhaps that is Muslims in media today or immigration and religion or sex, gender and religion or religious hip hop. The 3 Application Projects will allow each of you quite a bit of freedom to pursue your interests.

Our 5 Thematic sections include:

- I. FOUNDATIONS IN STUDYING RELIGION AND MEDIA (Weeks 1-2)
- II. JOURNALISM & RELIGION: A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP (Weeks 3-5)
- III. RELIGION IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE: STRANGE RITES (Weeks 6-8)
- IV. RELIGION AND MEDIA IN POPULAR CULTURE (Weeks 9-13)
- V. MATERIAL ENCOUNTERS: RELIGION IN CULTURE & CYBERSPACE (Weeks 14-15)

Required Course Texts (3 books-I suggest you get physical paperback/hardcopy editions)

1. Gordon Lynch & Jolyon Mitchell, eds. *Religion, Media, and Culture: A Reader*
ISBN: 978—0-415-54955-4 (Routledge, 2012) **"RMC"**:
2. John C. Lyden and Eric Michael Mazur, eds. *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Popular Culture*, ISBN: 9781138322738 (Routledge, 2019). **"RPC"**
3. Tara Isabella Burton. *Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World* ISBN: 9781762534

Learning Outcomes i.e. you can expect to exit the course with ...

- An enhanced understanding of how media and religion interface and influence one another
- Better critical awareness of the issues and challenges of nuanced, objective religion reporting.
- Improved reading skills enforced by weekly critical reading reflection papers
- A new appreciation of religion in television and other products of popular culture
- Improved formal writing skills and confidence that you can cite according to academic standards
- Greater familiarity with online resources related to religion and Religion and Media Studies
- Increased knowledge of the intersection between religion and creative entertainment and expression
- Improved online communication skills by mastering VoiceThread.

Learning Assessment: Elements of your Final Grade

20%: 5 Critical Reading Reflections (up to 4 pts each)

25%: 12 VoiceThread Discussions (1-11 up to 2 pts each; Final Projects feedback: 3 pts)

10%: Application 1: Religion-in-the-News Comparison (PowerPoint)

10%: Application 2: Case Study of Remixed Religion Today (PowerPoint)

10%: Application 3: Television Show Analysis Paper (research paper)

25%: Final Research Project (visual project posted: 15%; written research paper: 10%)

100% / 100 pts.

Explanation of Assessment and Grading:

- A: 93-100 Outstanding (participation and work consistently distinguished itself)
- A-: 90-92 Excellent work across the board
- B+: 87-89 Distinguished work
- B: 83-86 Above average (high quality work in most areas)
- B-: 80-82 Solid performance, still above average work
- C+: 77-79 Good work, but may have performed poorly in one or more areas
- C: 73-76 Average you did all the work adequately
- C-: 70-72 Still a solid passing grade, may have performed poorly in several areas
- D+ 69-67 Below average, still a passing grade in GE, but not for majors
- D: 63-66 Below average performance in many areas; may have failed to complete some work
- D-: 60-62 Student did some work but probably did not complete a major assignment
- F: below 60...well you don't want to go there! This score results in failure of the course.

This scale is firm. A few points *can make a big difference.*

5 Critical Reading Reflection Papers (CRRPs) 20% (up to 4 pts each)

Once per unit (there are 5 units) you will be responsible for writing a critical reading response paper. I will set up a Sign-up genius and there will be a limited number of slots per week. The weeks you sign up to write your CCRP you will write a 400 word reflection based on the readings. Please see handout on Canvas for details. Your critical reflections should respond to all of the readings for that week. These reflections assess your on-going work in the class. **There are no CRRPs weeks 1, 5, 9, 12, or 15 (when other projects are due).** It is your responsibility to make sure you sign up correctly-one CRRP per unit.

12 VoiceThread Discussions 20% (1-11 worth up to 2 pts each; final post worth 3 points)

Tired of traditional forum posts and threaded discussions? We will be using a web-based tool for online discussion: VoiceThread. Instead of typing out your answers to discussion board prompts, you will be videotaping your face for your initial post and recording your voice or writing for your responses to each other. You will need a laptop or desktop with a video camera and microphone. I suggest downloading the VoiceThread app on your phone as well as back up if your laptop or desktop video camera is not working. Each VT will have approximately 3 slides with prompts on them. Questions will be related to

that week's reading and general topic and are due Monday nights by 11:30. Over the next 48 hours please watch your peer's VT posts and respond to 2 of them by Wednesday nights at 11:30. It is my hope that this will dramatically cut down on the alienation and loneliness inherent in online learning and lead to truly engaging discussions. I have seen friendships forged in RLST 400 using this tool. Your video posts should be short and sweet (60-90 seconds). Let your personality and sense of humor shine through. **You should jot down your main points before you record your post.** Make sure you are in a quiet space with no exterior noise and that your face is well lit (diffused sunlight is best). Some of you may already be familiar with VoiceThread and may already have an account set up, for the rest of you here are some helpful links and videos to get started:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EnRwIDr4SY> (video covering the basics)

<https://voicethread.com/howto-categories/viewing-web-application/> (detailed options).

You can also use VT to post photos and videos by clicking the white plus sign (+) in the bottom right of the screen. You will always be able to review what you record before saving it and posting. See handout on Canvas for more details. **No VT posts Weeks 5, 9, 12.**

Application 1: Religion-in-the-News Critical Comparison

Due date: Week 5: Monday 9/20 at 11:30 pm

This is a straightforward compare-and-contrast assignment focused on journalistic coverage of a religious topic. Choose one current (within the past year) news story related to religion. Possible topics include: Religious beliefs of the Taliban, Rev. William Barber II and the Poor People's Campaign, Mindfulness practice in California public schools, etc. Clear your topic with Dr. Solano **by week 3** by sending her an email (jsolano@fullerton.edu) with the subject line "your name: news story-400: _____". The project is **due week 5** following our unit on journalism and broadcast news. Compose and post a 8-10 slide presentation (Google slides/Powerpoint) to Canvas presenting **2 sufficiently different sides of the same** news story. You could choose to include a religious insider angle vs. an outsider critical angle, or a secular political commentator vs. Religious leader, or a major media behemoth vs. an independent journalist from Vice or You Tube, a radio talk shows vs. the television nightly news etc. The main idea is to provide us with **two radically different takes** on the same event/issue. The final two slides should be your critique of the two angles incorporating what you learned in this unit. You will be graded on the appropriateness of your chosen samples to represent diverse views and your critical analysis of the two sides in your conclusion. There is no accompanying paper. See handout for details.

Application 2: Remixed Religion Case Study

Due Date: Week 9: Monday, October 18 at 11:30 pm

Again this PowerPoint or Google slide presentation will be posted and shared directly on Canvas. There is no research paper component. This assignment comes after we have spent three weeks considering "re-mixed" religion (*Strange Rites*). I would like you to choose a contemporary example of this phenomena-it can be a movement or group profiled in the book or it could be another related group or phenomena. Possible case studies include the re-mixed religiosity of Veganism, Harry Potter or GOT fandoms, Soul Cycle, BLM, Wicca, Neopaganism, Paleo or Keto diet followers, Proud Boys or similar political groups, etc. Draw inspiration from the readings under this section as far as topics and clear your topic with Dr. Solano via email by week 7. Your task is to summarize and teach the class about your group and explain how it fulfills Burton's definition of remixed religion in a 8-10 slide narrated presentation.

Application 3: Television or Streaming Show Analysis Paper

Due Date: Week 12: 11/8 at 11:30 pm

Choose one television or streaming service series and analyze religion and spirituality within the show. You may choose a series that has obvious religious themes like *Unorthodox*, *The Good Place*, *Good Omens*, *GOT*, *American Gods*, *Lost*, *Lucifer*, *Ramy*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, or a show that deals with religious themes like evil such as *The Wire*, *Stranger Things*, or religious plurality and tensions in the U.S. like *South Park* or *The Simpsons*. Papers should be 5-6 pages double spaced between 1,000-1,300 words(excluding notes and bibliography) and include a formal bibliography. Use 12-point TNR font with 1-inch margins. Include word count at end of text. Bibliography should begin on its own page. You should have a clear declarative thesis that summarizes your reading of the show. In addition to your own original reading of religion and religious themes in the show, you must include 2 related peer-reviewed articles and 5 popular press reviews/interviews/fan media, etc. Papers are due on Monday 11/8 by 11:30 pm and must be submitted via TurnItin link on Canvas. No late papers accepted. Choose a show you enjoy as you will be spending quite a bit of time with it. There is no online component, just lots of screening and a formal short paper.

Final Research Presentation & Paper (25%)

Your studies in Religion, Media and Contemporary Culture culminate in this final project which is worth 25% of your grade. As far as the topic you may build on what you already delved into with your short application exercises or do something entirely different. I encourage you to explore something related to your major or to a strong personal interest. The topic is wide open as long as it deals with religion, media, and culture: from religious standup comedy to cyber religious communities, digital spiritualities to an analysis of how ISIS uses film and media to recruit globally. There will be a short written component (5 pages with Bibliography-10%) where you synthesize your research, while the 15 minute narrated presentation shared with the class comprises 15% of the grade. If you are a filmmaker you may make an original short narrative film or a documentary instead (I know how much work this involves). For the latter you may decide to profile and interview a religious group, for examples Hindus in the OC or Atheists United. You should be thinking about what you would like to do from day one; however the content of the course may well inspire you in a whole new direction as we progress. You can always speak with Dr. Solano during Tuesday in-person office hours to refine your project if emails feel too limited. Be sure to clear your project idea with Dr. Solano **by Week 10** at the latest. See handout posted on Canvas. Critically commenting on your classmates Projects is your "Final" in the course.

Being Part of an Online Learning Community

Building a warm and inviting online communal atmosphere takes each and every one of us. This is an upper-division seminar based on discussion and since we are not gathered around the table, we have to be vigilant about contributing and engaging each other. That means that beyond posting your critical analysis of readings and responding to prompts and each other in VoiceThread, you consider this tribe of religion and media young scholars as colleagues with whom you will grow with over the term. In other words this course is not meant to be a bunch of reading that you simply reflect on. I want this term to be fun, challenging and connected to the ever-changing media worlds related to religion. I hope you discover new examples each week and will be excited to share them in discussion. You are responsible for doing your part to ensure intriguing dialogue happens. This means posting your CRRP's and initial Voice Thread posts by the Monday night deadlines and remembering to respond to 2 classmates by Wednesdays. Peers can't respond if you have not posted on time! Make your responses meaningful-don't merely agree or praise them, engage them.

Netiquette for our VoiceThreads (adapted for this course from suggestions from Rutger's.edu):

1. Be Professional. Your coursework is more than learning facts; you are preparing for a career. You are learning to interact with your fellow course participants as you would in your future professional life. Your conduct in this course should reflect this.
2. Show you care: proofread your posts before uploading them.
3. Be prepared: there is a reason our discussions follow your critical reading summaries. Reference your readings specifically, have them in front of you.
4. Style: be clear, concise and intelligent; however don't be afraid to let your passion & personality show.
5. Have opinions and back them up.
6. Respect disagreement. People have the right to disagree with you. However, disagreement should never be personal. Online discussions are a means to share ideas and practice the skill of persuasion. Persuasive speech cannot be achieved with hurtful, hateful or inappropriate language. Know that religion can be a touchy subject and everyone in the class has different experiences.
7. Ask questions of other students. Before jumping to conclusions, ask for clarification.
8. Be forgiving, sometimes unintended meanings are conveyed. Offer grace and be encouraging.
9. Do not use cuss words or questionable emojis. Smiley faces are OK.

A note about emailing Dr. Solano: I do not work 24/7. Sometimes students forget that professors behind online courses are people, not auto-reply machines and an email sent Saturday night at 7 pm is disruptive and may get buried by Monday morning. I would *very much appreciate* your demonstration of this understanding and ask that you only email me during between **6 a.m. Monday mornings and 2 pm Fridays** so I can get back to you quickly (within 24 hours at most). Most email responses will be short and sweet-don't read anything into that brevity-I may be out running errands & I want to respond as soon as possible to you from my phone. I am pretty good at responding rapidly, just please respect the window of 6 am Mon-2 pm Friday. Late Friday emails will not be answered until Monday.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

Students are to be held to the highest level of integrity. You are expected to be honest in your pursuit of learning. For a further explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, please see UPS 300.021. Online assignments makes it tempting to cheat...please don't, make sure all the work is your own. The penalty for academic dishonesty will include a 0 on that assignment and possible failure of the course. All incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students Office, Judicial Affairs.

Learning Special Needs...If You Need Assistance...

Many of us have special challenges when it comes to learning. I want you to know I understand and will try to help you with your needs, but you must get it cleared through: **The Disabled Student Service Office**, UH 101, (714) 278-3117 or as documented at www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/. The campus policy is to document the need and then the instructor can work to accommodate your need. There are NO EXAMS in RLST 400, but there are many firm deadlines so make sure you plan your work time for RLST 400 well ahead of due dates.

Considerations when Discussing Religion, Media, and Culture

At university we are all learning how to engage in intellectual discussions in a lively and respectful manner. Discussing religion, spirituality, beliefs, other people's faiths, etc. can get extremely sticky. I hope that, soon enough, you will have made some new friends and feel comfortable sharing your opinion. I do not want you to be silenced by the PC police, neither should the classroom be a place of religious coercion or attack. Being able to include your life experiences (which may or may not include religious or spiritual insights) is welcome in this course. So it is OK to share "I was raised Catholic..." or "I am approaching this topic as a non-religious agnostic

who is curious about...” I strongly encourage you to be aware of and respectful of the feelings and perspectives of your colleagues. This classroom will have “insiders” and “outsiders” when it comes to religion & both perspectives are interesting and valuable. A cordial classroom is wonderful atmosphere in which to learn and we are all responsible for creating this milieu. The majority of you are COMM majors, please don’t hesitate to ask for clarification re: religious issues/groups/beliefs that seem opaque or unfamiliar & I will do my best to clarify ideas. Each of you is bringing some expertise to the media table, whether it is a background in journalism, film, gaming, religious studies, marketing, etc. We will learn *from* each other and *with* each other this semester.

A few Final Notes about this Unique Fall Term

Transitioning to CANVAS

This term all faculty must transition to an entirely new platform: Canvas. I am sure, after a year or so, I will love it and I hear students like its interface; however, I am not a techy and I know this semester will have technological bumps in the road. I have been working on all the links and pages this summer, but I am asking you to be patient with the me as I create this website. This lms is complex on our end. I am asking for your patience and grace as far as Canvas this term. I will make sure your materials are functioning well at least a week in advance.

Navigating COVID-19

Let's face it, the Covid-19 pandemic has made education (and life) complicated. I wish we were talking about Covid in hindsight, but as I type this, the Delta variant is creating a new surge of disease in Southern California. Nobody knows what this term holds as far as safety and in-person classes, so I ask you all ahead of time to expect the unexpected and stay flexible.

I also want to say that although I run a tight ship, I also recognize that these are not normal times. Many people are facing debilitating anxiety and depression and domestic stresses due to Covid-19. You can always reach out to me privately via email and let me know if you fall seriously ill or someone in your family does, etc. There are also many resources on campus that can help. I am here to help you learn, but I care about each of you as human beings during these difficult times. I just want you to know I am here for you, you will learn and grow this term, and we will make it through. Additional campus support services include:

<http://itwebstg.fullerton.edu/canvassupportresources/>.

CAPS 24/7 crisis phone services for students: (657)278-3040

YOU@Fullerton: A free and confidential wellness portal that connects students to academic, physical, and mental health resources. Student visit: <https://you.fullerton.edu>

CAPS appointments for students: (657) 278-3040 or visit <https://www.fullerton.edu/caps/>

COURSE READING & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

- "CPD/L":** Canvas Posted Doc or Link to article or video posted on course website
"RMC": *Religion, Media and Culture: A Reader* Ed. by Gordon Lynch and Jolyon Mitchell (2012)
"RPC": *Religion and Pop Culture Reader* Ed. by Lyden & Mazur (2019)
"VT": VoiceThread
"CRRP": Critical Reading Response Paper

Weekly reading load is listed for you, it averages out to about 40 pgs per week. Pace yourself and plan ahead.

Deadlines: Critical reading response papers are due on select **Mondays by 11:30 pm**
VoiceThread initial personal posts are also due on select **Mondays by 11:30 pm**.
VoiceThread responses to classmates are due **Wednesdays at 11:30 p.m.**

The weeks you have Application Projects due (weeks 5, 9,12) there are no readings, no reading response papers, nor VoiceThread discussions (Dr. Solano figures you have enough on your plate these weeks). All deadlines are firm-if you miss a deadline, please accept it.

I. Foundations of Studying Religion and the Media

Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Each Other

Overview of the semester. **To do:** Read through syllabus and print out at least pgs 6-9. Familiarize yourself with everything on Canvas, read over all docs listed under "Course Docs," start brainstorming what current news story, TV show, and remixed religious trend you'd like to focus on for your three application projects. With eyes wide open if you decide you want to be part of RLST 400 then **purchase your 3 books** and complete **VoiceThread # 1**.

***Wednesday eve August 25th, 6-7 pm** I will hold a Zoom or Canvas BBB real-time conference to go over the term, answer any questions you may have, show you some samples of past student work in 400 so you can get some inspiration and clarification re: assignments. This meeting is optional, I know not everyone will be able to make it, it is only to help you.

Voice Thread #1: Introductions due Sunday Night August 29th by 11:30 pm.

Week 2: Media and the Transformation of Religion (43p) *note different due dates than the norm-intro grace*

RMC: Gordon Lynch, et. al.: *Introduction* (5) and Part II *Intro* (4)

7: Stewart Hoover: *Religion, the Media, and 9/11* (12)

9: Marie Gillespie: *The Role of Media in Religious Transnationalism* (12)

14: Birgit Meyer: *Religious sensations: media, aesthetics, & the study of contemporary religion* (10)

***CRRP and VT #2 posts due Wed 9/1 and Peer VT responses due Friday 9/3 (always at 11:30 pm)**

II. Journalism and Religion: A Complicated Relationship

Week 3: Religion in Print: Journalistic Issues (approximately 40)

RPC: Jolyon P. Mitchell: *Journalism* (11)

CPD: Doug Underwood: *Religion in Print Media* (12)

CPD: Ken Waters: *The Evangelical Press* (13)

CPL: any story from recent *Christianity Today* Magazine (link on Canvas) (approx. 5)

CPL: any story from Buddhist journal *The Lion's Roar* (5) or Religion New Service (linked)

Note holiday extension-Labor Day is 9/6 no office hours, deadline pushed to Tuesday.

****CRRP and VT #3 posts due Tuesday 9/7 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 9/8**

Week 4: Religion in Broadcast News (30)

CPD: Michele Rosenthal: *Commercial Television News, Crisis, and Collective Memory* (13)

RMC: 19: Jolyon Mitchell: *Remembering news about violence* (10)

RMC: 22: Gordon Lynch: *Public Media and the Sacred: A Critical Perspective* (7)

*CRRP and VT #4 posts due Monday 9/13 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 9/15

Week 5: Application # 1: Religion-in-the-News Project Posted by Monday, 9/20 at 11:30pm.

No reading response paper or VoiceThread discussion due the weeks you turn in Applications!

III. Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World (all readings weeks 6-9 are from Burton)

Week 6: Religiously Remixed, 3rd Great Awakening, and Harry Potter Fandom (55p)

1: Burton: *Who are the Religiously Remixed?* (19)

3: Burton: *Today's Great Awakening* (9)

4: Burton: *Harry Potter and the Birth of Remix Culture* (27)

*CRRP and VT#5 posts due Monday 9/27 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 9/29

Week 7: Social Justice Movements and Techno-Utopianism

8: Two Doctrines for a Godless World (36)

CPL: Various articles on the religiosity of various social justice movements

*CRRP and VT # 6 posts due Monday 10/4 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 10/6

Week 8: Order, Chaos, and the Alt-Right (45)

9: Burton: *Twilight of the Chads* (38)

Conclusion: *Clash of the Titans* (7)

*CRRP and VT # 7 posts due Monday 10/11 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 10/13

Week 9: Application 2-Case Study of Remix Religion presentation due Monday, 10/18

IV. RELIGION AND MEDIA IN POPULAR CULTURE

Week 10: Religion, Spirituality, and Consumer Culture (54p)

RMC: Intro, pp.7-10 (3)

2: Pete Ward: *The Economies of Charismatic Evangelical worship* (7)

3: Nabil Echaibi: *Mecca Cola and burquinis: Muslim consumption and religious identities* (7)

5: Lee Gilmore: *Burn-a-lujah! DIY spiritualities, Reverend Billy, and Burning Man* (8)

6: Jeremy Carrette & Richard King: *Spirituality and the re-branding of religion* (10)

10: Lynn Schofield Clark: *Religion & Authority in a Remix Culture*

RPC: 10: Tricia Sheffield: *Advertising* (19)

**CRRP and VT #8 posts due Monday 10/25 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 10/27

WEEK 11: PART II: RPC reader: ENCOUNTERS WITH POPULAR CULTURE

RPC: 1: John Lyden: *Definitions: What is the Subject Matter of "religion and popular culture"?* (12)

Religion and Television

RPC: 3: Elijah Siegler: *Television* (19)

CPD: Mark Pinsky: Excerpts from *The Gospel According to The Simpsons & Afterword on South Park* (40)

CPD: Jeanette Reedy Solano: *Lost from Don't Stop Believin': Pop Culture and Religion* (2)

*CRRP and VT #9 posts due Monday 11/1 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday, 11/3

Week 12: Application # 3: Religion on Television Paper Due Monday 11/8 at 11:30 pm

Week 13: Religion and Popular Music and on the Radio

RPC: 7: Mark Hulsether: *Music* (18)

CPD: Daniel White Hodge and Monica Miller: 1 of 2 articles on Religion & Hip Hop-read either (12)

Religion on the Radio

RPC: 6: Tona Hangen: *Radio* (14)

CPL: Interview with Krista Tippett <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/july-august/public-listener-conversation-with-nprs-krista-tippett.html> (3)

Radio Homework: Listen to and critique **one public radio** podcast from either Krista Tippett's NPR show: ON BEING <http://www.onbeing.org/about> (archives of weekly 1 hour podcasts: from atheism to Modern Judaism); search archive of podcasts under: <https://onbeing.org/libraries/public-theology-reimagined/>? A few specific show suggestions: <https://onbeing.org/programs/shane-claiborne-and-omar-saif-ghobash-called-and-conflicted/#audio> or <https://onbeing.org/programs/indigo-girls-no-separation-on-music-and-transcendence/> OR Muslim podcasts/interviews: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/720667775/tell-them-i-am>

*CRRP and VT #10 posts due Monday 11/15 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 11/17

*******Thanksgiving Break: November 22nd-26th** Enjoy your week off!

V: MATERIAL ENCOUNTERS: RELIGION IN CULTURE & CYBERSPACE

Week 14: Artifacts, Life, and Digital Religion (56)

RPC: 14: Edward Dutton: *Fashion* (13)

RPC: 15: Nikki Bado & Rebecca Norris: *Games and Dolls* (16)

RPC: 8: Rachel Wagner: *Video and Internet Games* (16)

RPC: 9: Heidi Campbell and Paul E. Tuesner: *Internet and Social Networking* (11)

*CRRP and VT #11 posts due Monday 11/29 and Peer VT responses due Wednesday 12/1

Week 15: Student Religion and Media Presentations Posted on Canvas

Final Research PowerPoint presentations or films are due Monday 12/6 at 11:30 pm.

Your Final Project research paper and bibliography should be submitted via TurnItin link on Canvas on the same due date: **Monday, 12/6 at 11:30 pm.**

Over the next 6 days (12/7-13) be sure to check out everyone's projects!

Wk 16: FINALS WEEK-deadline Monday 12/13 11:30 pm

Your "Final" is critical and substantive written comments on 5 of your peers' projects-I will assign your five to comment on by week 14. Please comment directly on their VoiceThreads and also present your 5 critical reviews (min 150 words each) in written form entitled "Final Project Feedback by "Jane Doe" - your name. Upload this document by the Monday eve of finals week (12/13) by 11:30 pm. This is worth 3 points and takes the place of your final exam. You may turn this in early. This is your VT # 12.

That's it! You will now hear religion in the news or notice religion in media with a keen and critical eye.

Have a great Winter Break, you earned it!

Important Deadlines in RLST 400

Plan ahead and mark your calendars

All deadlines are **11:30 pm**. Most (**but not all**) work is due on Mondays.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION POST on VoiceThread due Sunday 8/29.

WEEK 5: Application 1: RELIGION-IN-THE-NEWS PROJECT DUE Monday 9/20.

WEEK 9: Application 2: REMIXED RELIGION-CASE STUDY DUE Monday 10/18.

WEEK 12: Application 3: RELIGION AND TV/STREAMING PAPER DUE Monday 11/8.

WEEK 15: FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT DUE Monday 12/6.

WEEK 16: FINAL FEEDBACK ON YOUR PEER'S PROJECTS due Monday 12/13.

I hope you enjoyed exploring Religion, Media, & Contemporary Culture!

Thanks for taking the course! I hope to see you in future courses.