Introduction to International Studies:
RELIGION AND GLOBALIZATION

International Studies 100.04 and 100.05

College of Charleston
Spring 2015

Dr. Foody
Department of International Studies
Email: foodykm@cofc.edu
Office Location: International Studies, 9 Glebe Street, 3rd floor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course invites students to analyze international and global phenomena. We will use religious phenomena as our main data; however, this is not a world religions course. Rather than looking at individual religions and what makes them unique, we will instead ask how globalization informs religious practice, meaning, and identity.

Our conversations are organized around three major questions in the history of globalization:

- Who is Human?
- Are We all the Same Now?
- Where Do We Go From Here?

Our first unit will begin with the European conquest of the Americans in the 1500s. At this point, the question of “Who is Human?” applied largely to the indigenous American populations. We’ll see how early figures wrestled with that question and how it continued to inform European and American debates through the Atlantic slave trade and into the present.

The second unit of our course will ask “Are We All the Same Now?” In other words, do any real differences remain in our globalized and increasingly inter-connected world? In this unit you will be introduced to some of the major concepts that scholars use to think about globalization, which we will explore through the example of yoga.

In our third unit we will reflect on our own location in this globalized world, asking “Where Do We Go From Here?” How might we practice a kind of global citizenship that demonstrates care for those outside of our local communities? What ethics and commitments are most important in today’s world?

We will return to each of these three questions in our fourth and final unit as we examine the unity and diversity of a single religious tradition – Islam. You will read Journey to the End of Islam, a non-fiction account of a contemporary Muslim’s travels around the world. As we follow him from the United States to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries, we’ll ask what impact globalization has had on the practice Islam as well as on how non-Muslims relate to the Islamic tradition.
PROCEDURE

This class consists of class discussions and lecture. You are expected to be present in class, to participate in discussions, and to take careful notes during the entirety of class.

No computers or other electronic equipment will be allowed during this class.

I am available for conference outside of class. I am generally in my office from 2:00pm-3:00pm and 4:50pm-5:50pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please see OAKS for details about scheduling appointments for one of these times.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. International Studies and Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:
   1. Students will demonstrate an ability to think globally from the perspective of multiple disciplines.

   These learning outcomes will be demonstrated and assessed using a variety of assignments, including a 1500- to 2500-word paper (outcome no. 1).

B. General Education Student Learning Outcomes. This course meets the following General Education requirements for Humanities:

   1. Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.

   2. Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

   These outcomes will be demonstrated and assessed in a 1500- to 2500-word paper (see schedule of classes and deadlines).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 5% Two Preparation Assignments (2.5% each)
- 15% In-Class Reading Quizzes
- 15% Participation
- 15% Take-Home Essay Exam
- 15% In-Class Written Exam #1
- 15% In-Class Written Exam #2
- 20% Oral Exam (Presentation & Slides 15%; Group Evaluation 2%; Q&A 3%)
Attendance Policy

Students must be present in class. More than five absences will lead to automatic failure of the course. I strongly suggest you save these absences for illnesses and emergencies.

In-Class Reading Quizzes

- Unannounced and throughout the semester. Reading quizzes cannot be made-up without a school-verified excuse.

These reading quizzes exist to encourage you to complete reading assignments regularly and thoughtfully. These are not a punishment and should be relatively easy as long as you complete the course readings prior to class.

These quizzes total 15% of your course grade. The number of quizzes is not set.

Participation

Classroom lectures and discussions are a central component of this course. You are responsible for arriving in class prepared to ask and answer questions concerning the assigned readings.

I will call on ALL students over the course of a week of class. Your grade depends on demonstrating your preparation to participate in these discussions.

Participation is worth 15% of your course grade. You earn points towards your participation grade by asking informed questions and demonstrating your knowledge of the readings.

Participation grading rubric:

0 – You did not attend class.

1 (F) You used unapproved technology during class. You responded to a text, were distracted online, etc.

2 (D) You demonstrated that you had not completed or spent sufficient time on the day’s readings.

3 (C) You attempted to participate in the discussion, but you did not have the day’s reading in hand.
4 (B) You demonstrated that you completed the reading assignments and contributed to the class discussion.

5 (A) You demonstrated that you had completed the reading assignments and contributed to the class discussion. You not only responded when called on, but also asked thoughtful questions of your own about the readings.

In-Class Exam #1

- Friday February 20th

This exam will draw from both discussions and lectures.

It will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

I will allocate time on Wednesday February 18th to answer questions regarding both course concepts and the format of the exam itself.

This exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

In-Class Exam #2

- Monday March 23rd

This exam will draw from both discussions and lectures.

It will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

This exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

Oral Exam

- Friday March 27th; Monday March 30th; Wednesday April 1st; Friday April 3rd

This oral exam will be completed in small groups (of approximately 3 students) that I will choose.

Your group will be assigned one concept that we discussed earlier in the semester. As a group you will select one piece of media of your choice (fictional film, television show, novel, or short story) and will demonstrate how the course concept applies to your piece of media.

You will prepare a formal power point presentation and explain to your classmates both the
meaning of the course concept and how it relates to your piece of media.

This project is worth 20% of your course grade – 15% for Presentation and Slides; 2% Group Evaluation; 3% Participation in Q&A

Take-Home Exam

- Due before the end of the final exam period for the course (see OAKS)

For this take-home exam you will write a formal essay of approximately 1500 words (about 5 pages).

This exam will require you to analyze Michael Muhammad Knight’s Journey to the End of Islam (our reading for Unit III) based on course concepts and themes.

I will provide an assignment sheet detailing the requirements and expectations for this exam.

This take-home exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100 (4.0)</td>
<td>B+ 87-89 (3.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96 (4.0)</td>
<td>B 83-86 (3.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92 (3.7)</td>
<td>B- 80-82 (2.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 (3.3)</td>
<td>C+ 77-79 (2.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86 (3.0)</td>
<td>C 73-76 (2.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82 (2.7)</td>
<td>C- 70-72 (1.7)</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79 (2.3)</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76 (2.0)</td>
<td>D 63-66 (1.0)</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72 (1.7)</td>
<td>D- 60-62 (.70)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Academic Honesty:

This course has a zero-tolerance policy towards academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, taking credit for another’s work, and cheating in any way. A student found cheating will automatically fail the course. In addition, CoC policy requires me to report such a student to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible of academic dishonesty by the Dean’s office will receive an XF on the student’s transcript, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty.

ACCOMODATIONS

If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, you must provide me with a letter from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. It is your responsibility to schedule accommodations for in-class exams through the Center for Disability Services. I strongly recommend you do that during the first week of class. According to CoC
policy, if you wait until the week of the exam you forfeit your claim to accommodation. For more information on the SNAP program, see: http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/

REQUIRED TEXTS

(1) Michael Muhammad Knight, *Journal to the End of Islam.* → You must purchase the version available at the campus bookstore. Electronic versions will not be accepted.

(2) Additional readings will be posted on OAKS. It is your responsibility to print these and have them in hand during each class. Printing these readings is not optional - please take these costs into account.

(3) Film rental (Amazon/Netflix/Google Play/Etc.). You will be required to rent two films over the course of the semester. You should budget approximately $10 for these rentals.

THE SCHEDULE OF COURSE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS IS ON OAKS.