

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Fall 2016
REL3320.01 Moses, Jesus, Mohammad
MWF 12:30-1:20pm
Room: ENG1-427

INSTRUCTOR: DR EVANS
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination and analysis of 3 monotheistic religions for their shared ideas and beliefs in their historical- cultural contexts. The study will involve both historical and theological developments for each religion with comparative analysis made for the possibilities of shared understanding of what constitutes the religion of ONE God.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the chronology and significance of major events and movements in three religions with their arts and ideas
2. **Utilize** social sciences (sociology, psychology and anthropology) in the analysis of traditional beliefs and rituals in these religions
3. **Evaluate** how these cultures utilize their religion to structure and regulate their society
4. **Identify** and deepen appreciation of common religious themes and the richness of diverse cultures through 3 tests and 2 papers of 5 pages each.

III. TEXT BOOK

Kirsch, Jonathan, *Moses: A life*, Ballantine Books; New York, 1998

Borg, Marcus, *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*, Harper Collins: San Francisco, 2006

Asian, Reza, *No God But God*, Random House: New York, 2006

IV. WITHDRAWAL

It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course due to any personal or schedule problems. Students who fail to drop before the deadline established in the curriculum catalogue will receive an F for the course. **Withdrawal deadline is Oct 31.**

V. GRADING SCALE

Three exams: 55% (combined)

2 papers 40%

Attendance & Discussion 05%

Grades: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 (0-2: minus. 7-9: plus)

VI. PAPER GUIDELINES

1. Each paper will take a single topic (check outline notes) to be discussed between 2 monotheistic religions
2. No right/wrong conclusions are desired, only analysis of what is believed and how it works for the particular religion or between them
3. Discuss the view of each religion on selected topic and then have each religion discuss the other's view for comparison & contrast
4. Use discussion to demonstrate knowledge of each religion through the topic.

VII. COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Each text assignment must be read prior to class session. Students will be encouraged to participate in class discussion pertaining to the assigned material. Feel free to initiate discussion and ask relevant questions
2. Bring relevant textbook to every class.
3. **Class attendance** is the responsibility of the student. Tardiness disrupts everyone, so be one time. For conflict of attendance during the semester, the student is responsible to notify instructor to determine if withdrawal is warranted. Turn off cell phones and laptops. Outlines will be provided on overhead projector for copying.
4. **Dates:** Failure to take exams when scheduled will result in zero ("0") credit for the assignment. Conflicts with schedule must be addressed before test dates.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

DATES	ASSIGNMENTS
Aug 22- Sept 23	Moses, A life Selected Chapters
Sept 26	Test 1
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 28- Oct 28	Jesus: Uncovering the Life & Teachings Selected Chapters
Oct 31	Test 2
Oct 10	1st Paper
Nov 2-Dec 2	No God but God Selected Chapters
Dec 9 (Fri, 10-12:50)	Test 3
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 21-Dec 2	Chapter 10: Islam Woodward: Sacred Texts readings
Nov 24-Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Nov 21	2nd Paper
Dec 9, Fri, 10-12:50	SUMMARY FINAL/TEST 3