Religion in America RELS 191
ONLINE SPRING 2018

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Clarke Hall 414J
Hours: TBA

Course and Contact Information
Instructor: Lisa L. Stenmark
Office Location: Clark 414J
Telephone: Please use Canvas
ONLINE OFFICE: https://sisu.zoom.us/j/380879997
Email: Please use Canvas
Office Hours: ONLINE: Mondays, 5-6 pm (and by appt)
See Schedule for in Person appts

Course Format: THIS IS AN ONLINE COURSE, so you will need a reliable internet connection and some familiarity with computers.

Course Description (Catalog): History of social and intellectual influence of religious groups, stressing African-, Asian-, European-, Latin- and Native-American roots. Highlights contact between groups, immigration, religious diversity and syncretism. GE Area S Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Course Objectives:

General Education Area S: After successfully completing the course, students shall be able to:
1. describe how identities (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality;
2. describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;
3. describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age); and
4. recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

Requirements and Evaluation: The following are the course requirements:
Meeting (Office or Skype) (3 @ 10 ea) 30 points (total)
Weekly Quizzes (top 12 @ 20 ea) 240 points (total)
Online Discussion (top 12 @ 15 ea) 180 points (total)
Papers (2 @ 50 ea) 100 points (total)
Final 50 points
Total: 600 Points
(379 or less/fail; 380/D; 400/D+; 420/C--; 440/C; 460/C++; 480/B--; 500/B; 520/B+; 540/A--; 560/A+)

Meetings: Students will meet with the professor in person at least three times. These may be in a group setting or in person (you will be able to sign up on Canvas). I recommend that you come for an orientation meeting (in the first two weeks), and for your two papers, but you can also come by during office hours (online or by appointment).

Online Discussion: Students will make four (4) substantive entries a week discussing readings, films, etc. You may initiate a discussion or respond to other posts, and you can talk about anything that you want, as long as you make specific references to course material. "The reading was too hard" or "Sherman Alexie rocks!" is not substantive. A substantive entry looks like this: "Arendt is hard to understand because she uses terms inconsistently (followed by examples and discussion)" or "Sherman Alexie rocks because his characters project a truly admirable
form of masculinity in the face of emasculating conditions of racism and poverty.” (followed by examples and discussion) or “I disagree/agree with your interpretation of this text because (followed by your reason).” Get the idea? These will be graded weekly, and will be worth 15 points each, and only the top 12 grades will count.

Note: Posts that include name calling, insults, hate speech or excessive “shouting” (all caps) will be deleted. Repeat offenders will be denied access to discussions, with resulting repercussions to your grade. To regain access, you will have to speak to me in person (or via Skype). Don’t respond to rude or offensive posts. Report the offensive post to me.

Assignments (Analysis, Quizzes/assw)
Every week there will be an assignment—often a quiz, but occasionally some other assignment. These will be worth 20 points each, and only the top 12 will count. See Canvas for details.

Papers. Students are required to write two (2) papers of about 750-900 words (2-3 pages). You may choose which two novels to write your papers on; just choose ONE from the first half of the class, and the other from the second half. See Canvas for details.

University Statement on Persons with Disabilities: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability. The Disability Resource Center (924-6000, located in Adm 110) requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

The Academic Integrity Statement: Please be mindful of the University Academic Integrity Statement: “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/04-12.pdf.”

NOTES ON PLAGIARISM: I take plagiarism (the use of someone else’s ideas, words, or materials without proper credit and documentation) seriously. Learn to properly cite sources. If you are in doubt, consult a manual (i.e. Chicago) or ask. If you are tempted, think twice. Not only are you robbing yourself of knowledge, and the opportunity to surprise yourself with how very smart you are, but your chances of getting caught are VERY high, because I have a deeply suspicious nature and am quite devious. Plagiarism will result in a failure on the assignment, a possible F for the course and even more serious University penalties. I REPORT ALL CASES OF PLAGIARISM REGARDLESS OF THE PENALTIES IN THE CLASS. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. If you have a question about plagiarism, ask. You can also look at the library web site.

TEXTS: Neusner, World Religions in America

Choose TWO (one from the first half and one from the second)
Sherman Alexie Reservation Blues
Nathaniel Hawthorne Scarlet Letter
James Baldwin Go Tell it on the Mountain
Mohja Kahf Girl in the Tangerine Scarf
Anne Fadiman The Spirit Catches you and You Fall Down


**SCHEDULE**

**Week One: Intro to Religion in America**
Week ending Monday, August 27

**Read:** America's Changing Religious Landscape (Pew Research); "America's Changing Religious Identity" (PRRI); Religious Knowledge Quiz

**Week Two: First Peoples**
Week ending Monday, September 3

**Read:** Wentz: Native Religions; The Native American Mascot: Tribute or Stereotype? Sherman Alexie, "This is What It Means to Say Phoenix Arizona"

**Watch:** White Shaman’s and Plastic Medicine Men

**NOTE:** Fri 8/31 last day to drop
Sign up for Meeting for Reservation Blues

**Week Three: First Encounters**
Week ending Monday, September 10

**Read:** Neusner Ch. 4 (Catholicism); First Encounters: Native Americans and Christians (From Sidebar: Francisian Letter; Jesuit's Notes; Letter of Roger Williams; Red Jacket; Chief Joseph)

**Watch:** A New Adam

**NOTE:** Monday 9/14 Last Day to Add

**DUE:** Friday, September 14; Critical Response to Reservation Blues
Sign up for Meeting for: Scarlet Letter

**Week Four: Protestant Roots**
Week ending Monday, September 17

**Read:** Neusner, Ch 2 (Protestants); Establishment or Tolerance (Read everything from the Sidebar); "Free Exercise" of Religion (Read Democracy in America, and the Williamsburg Charter)

**Watch:** A New Eden (Part One, on religious freedom (to 18:30)

**DUE:** Friday, September 22; Critical Response to Scarlet Letter

**The 19th Century Challenges**

**Week Five: Protestant Expansion and New Religions**
Week ending Monday, September 24

**Read:** Neusner Ch 18 (LDS). Corrigan, Ch 6 ("Protestant Expansion.")

**Watch:** A New Eden (part 2 on revival -- 18:30-36:30)
The Mormons (Part One, Chapters 5-9; Part Two Chapters 4,5,8)

**Week Six: The African American Church**
Week Ending Monday, October 1

**Read:** Neusner, 3, Corrigan, Ch 7 (144-151); African Religion in America (From Sidebar: Black Methodism; Jarena Lee, Preacher); Joyner, Believer I know.

**Watch:** The Ringshout....

**Week Seven: Immigration and More New Religious**
Week Ending Monday, October 8

**Read:** Read Neusner 7, 13 & 14 (Jewish, Apocalyptic and Metaphysical): Catholic & Jewish Immigration (From Sidebar: "Jewish Response"); Corrigan 7 ("Broadening of Denominational Life" except 144-151) "Alternative Allurs," (From Sidebar: Emerson and Thoreau)

**Watch:** Jewish Journey

A New Eden (Part 3, on Catholics—36:50 to the end)

**Week Eight: Slavery (Can a “Christian Nation” Tolerate Slavery)**
Week Ending Monday, October 15

**Read:** Douglas, The Meaning of the Fourth of July for the Negro; Raboteau, African Americans, Exodus, and the American Israel; Slavery: On Whose Side?

**Watch:** A Nation Reborn
Week Nine: Modernism
Week Ending Monday, October 22
Watch: A New Light

20th Century Responses
Week Ten: Difference and Assimilation and Backlash
Week Ending Monday, October 29
Read: Asian and Asian Exclusion (also Montana Encounter, Asiatic Exclusion League from sidebar), Xenophobia: Closing the door (and U.S v Singh from the Sidebar), Gods Melting Pot, The Right to be Different (also “Democracy versus the Melting Pot” from the Sidebar) Encounter in the Courts, Neusner, Religion and Society (You might also go back and read the Josiah Strong Reading from Catholic and Jewish Immigration)
Watch: “Soul of A Nation” (The first ¾ -- up to about 26 minutes, when it starts on MLK)

Week Eleven: Race and Who “We” Are
Week Ending Monday, November 5
Read: Artifacts of White Supremacy
Baldwin, “Letter from a Region in my Mind”
Watch: Soul of A Nation (second ¾, starting at around 26 mins)
Birth of a Nation
NOTE: Sign up for Meeting for Baldwin, Go Tell it on the Mountain

Week Twelve: From Diversity to Pluralism (I)
Week Ending Tuesday, November 13
Read: Diversity to Pluralism, A New Multi-Religious America, Neusner, Ch 5 (Religious Worlds of Hispanic Americans), Deck, Hispanic Pentecostal
Watch: God and Cesar
DUE: Friday, November 9: Critical Response to Go Tell it on the Mountain
NOTE: Sign up for Meeting for Kahf Girl in the Tangerine Scarf
Veterans Day is 11/12 so this week’s assignments will be due on Tuesday 11/13

Week Thirteen: From Diversity to Pluralism (II)
Week Ending Monday, November 19
Read: Neusner, Ch 8, Not in This Neighborhood: Zoning Battles, Violence and Vandalism, “Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and It’s Impact in the United States”
Watch: Muslim in Texas
DUE: Friday, November 16: Critical Response to Girl in the Tangerine Scarf
Sign up for Meeting for Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You
NOTE: THANKSGIVING is on 11/22. There are no assignments due on Monday, 11/26

Week Fourteen: From Diversity to Pluralism (III)
Week Ending Monday, December 3
Read: Neusner, 10, 11, 12, Buddhism Comes to Main Street. Lotus Flower Temple, Garden Grove, California, Buddhist and Social Action, Building American Buddhism
Watch: Dharmic Brothers: Alternative (Vipassana Meditation)
DUE: Friday, November 30: Critical Response to The Spirit Catches you and You Fall Down

Week Fifteen: From Diversity to Pluralism (IV)
Week Ending Monday, December 10
Read: Neusner, Ch 10, Cooperation at the Grassroots. Dwarkadish Temple, Sayreville, New Jersey, Hindu Americans Of The Next Generation
Watch: Fremont, USA

NOTE: Monday, December 10 is the Last Day of Class. No extensions or assignments accepted after this date.
FINAL: FRIDAY – December 14 (online– 1945-2200)