INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Brannon

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT: john.brannon@hawks.huntingdon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An inquiry into how religion has shaped and affected the American experience. Christianity and Judaism in America will be the main focus of the course, especially how the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition found expression in the panorama of the American experience. The course will examine the influence of religious faith and world-views in literature, film, and politics. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the rise of American denominations, the influence of Judeo-Christian values on the American frontier (especially the encounter with Native American traditions), and the impact of postmodernism on traditional religions, and the rise of fundamentalism in American culture.

This course provides an introduction to religious beliefs and behaviors in the United States. While this course will look at influences from earlier centuries, the focus will be upon the last 100 years and the relationship of religion with America, especially Christianity. Students will learn the history, beliefs and differences of the major world religions in American including the various components of Christianity. Students will begin to articulate the issues surrounding religion in American in an informed and critical manner.

PREREQUISITE: none


COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Student Learning Outcomes: Students will learn the history, beliefs and differences of the major world religions in American including the various components of Christianity. Students will begin to articulate the issues surrounding religion in American in an informed and critical manner.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA: The following items are required for the course:

1. Four Exams given on week two, three, four and a final exam. The exams are multiple choices and cover only the material from the class and the main text preceding the exam.
Week two exam (first exam) – covers lecture material from week one, and the introduction, and chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the text.
Week three exam (second exam) – covers lecture material from week two, and chapters 4, 5, and 6 in the text.
Week four exam (third exam) – covers lecture material from week three and chapters 7, 8, AND 11 in the text.
Week five exam (fourth exam) covers lecture material from week four and chapters 9, 10, 12, in the text.

2. Critical Essay (2-4 pages - integration of classroom lecture material, the textbook, and outside sources on the topic are expected) that addresses one of these issues:
   a. Is the US a Christian nation?
   b. Should the US government (federal, state or local) get involved in religious practices? And if so under what circumstances?
   c. Is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Christian?
   d. Is Scientology a “cult”?

**Grading Elements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam:</td>
<td>80% (each exam 20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS** - Describe the point range for each letter grade.
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59-below

First Night Assignment Religion in America by Julia Corbett Hemeyer, Prentice Hall, read the Introduction AND bring a written list of the three largest world religions in America OR the three largest Christian traditions in America. (Visit website adherents.com)

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week One, topics include:** Religious Diversity and its categories; Defining Religion; Amendments to the Constitution that deal with Religion; Civil Religion; When is Religion a Problem And “Inherited Christianity from Europe”

**Reading Assignment**

**Week Two, EXAM and topics include** Protestant Christians including Pentecostal and Holiness Christians; Fundamentalism and the Bible; and Catholic Christians

**Reading Assignment**
Week Three, EXAM and topics include: Orthodox Christians; African-American Christianity; American Born Christianities, Humanism; and Unitarian Universalism

Reading Assignment
Religion in America (sixth edition) by Julia Corbett Hemeyer, Chapters Seven, Eight, and Eleven (NOTE chapters out of sequence)

Week Four EXAM and topics include: American Judaism, Islam, Hindu, Buddhism

Reading Assignment

Week Five EXAM and topics include: a variety of other religious traditions in America including Wicca, Yoruba, Scientology, Kabbalah, Neo-paganism, etc.

Reading Assignment
Religion in America (sixth edition) by Julia Corbett Hemeyer, Prentice Hall, 2010, Chapter Thirteen

Writing Assignment – Due last

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

Participation – Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

Late Assignments – No shows fail the assignment. It is expected that the students fulfill their assignments on the date they are scheduled to do so. Students with illness or other problems that prevent them from attending class on the day a presentation or written assignment is due must contact their instructors PRIOR to the deadline via Huntingdon College email with supporting documentation to request an extension or a make-up. In most cases, missed assignments are logistically difficult to make-up while maintaining the integrity of the module. In rare cases, approval to make-up an assignment may be granted at the discretion of the faculty member based on the seriousness of the circumstance and on the supporting evidence provided by the
Accommodation of Special Needs - Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee’s decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4577 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

Medical Considerations - If you have a medical condition that may preclude participation in this course or any aspect of this course, the College suggests you consult your physician. The College will work with you based upon physician recommendations to find the best means to address any concerns.

Title IX Statement - Huntingdon faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the College’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the College the faculty member MUST report to the college’s Title IX Coordinator what you share. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may refer to Huntingdon’s Sexual Misconduct Policy at http://www.huntingdon.edu/student-life/student-service/misconduct. You do not have to go through the experience alone.

Academic Honesty – Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas which are not your own creation is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

Huntingdon College Library: As an EB student you have access to the full-range of electronic resources provided by the Library of Huntingdon College. Your first step upon enrollment at Huntingdon should be to register for a library account. You can do this by going to the Library’s web site at http://library.huntingdon.edu/ and under “EB Services” complete the “Library Card Application” form and submit it. You will receive shortly your personal library account information, which will then allow you to access a variety of resources including databases. Should you ever have a problem accessing the Library’s electronic resources, please contact the Library (specifically, Systems Librarian Brenda Kerwin at bkerwin@huntingdon.edu <mailto:bkerwin@huntingdon.edu>).
Among the Library’s electronic resources, you will find a number of databases specific to the area of business administration and its allied fields of study (e.g. databases within /EbscoHost/, /Gale/, and /ProQuest/, as well as /Oxford Journals/). You will also find databases that support your core courses in such fields as English, history, communications, the arts, and the sciences. You may be familiar with the AVL (the /Alabama Virtual Library/) and have your own AVL card. As a student at Huntingdon College, you no longer need to maintain your own AVL card, if you access the AVL through our web site. Simply click on “Campus &Library” rather than “Home Access” within the AVL. A few other mentions: /Countess/ is the name of the Library’s online catalogue and among its holdings you will find electronic books. If you want to know what full-text electronic journals are available to you through the Library’s databases, you can use the /Serials Solutions/ link on our web site. You can limit your search by discipline (such as “Business & Economic”). If you use Google for any of your research, we greatly encourage you to use /Google Scholar/ and /Google Books/. These features of Google will direct you to resources appropriate for academic research.*