

**RELS 298.001: SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:
RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

Dr. June McDaniel
Fall, 2012

Office: 4 Glebe St, Room 101
Office hours: Weds 10:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00
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Texts: Readings on OAKS (print and bring to class)
Goleman, *The Varieties of Meditative Experience*
Walsh and Vaughan, *Paths Beyond Ego*
Reserve readings, *Crazy Like Us*, Ethan Watters;
The Self Possessed, Frederick Smith (optional)

Grading: Grades will be based upon 3 tests and 2 papers, each will be worth 1/5 of the total class grade. There is no comprehensive final, just the third test (which will be a take-home test, questions given two weeks in advance).

The passing grade is D-, or 60. Grades are not curved. They range as:

A	94 and over
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	below 60

Attendance: There will be **FOUR allowed absences**. On the fourth absence, I shall note a warning on the attendance roster, that one more missed class will cause a student to be dropped. This is for unexcused absences. If you have any excused absences (illness, emergency), please let me know and I will cross them off the class roster.

Papers: Papers should be based on ideas and approaches covered in class, and should be at least **8 full pages in length, typed** (longer papers are fine, but shorter papers will have points deducted). Papers should have a **title page** with the title, name, class and date (this is where professors write their comments). There should be a bibliography of **at least 3 books** (internet and encyclopedia sources **do not count** for these, though they may be added as extra sources). Title page and bibliography do not count in paper length. I shall hand out a writing guide to help in the organization of the paper. You should hand in a paragraph on your topic to me about two weeks before the paper is due, and I will give you helpful suggestions. If the paper is late, **10 points will be deducted per class late**. Papers must be in **hard copy**, no e-mail attachments will be accepted.

Paper #1: Use a psychological perspective to analyze some issue in religious studies. Imagine that you are a follower of one of the psychologists we have discussed in class (Freud, Jung, Adler, Fowler, Maslow, etc). Analyze any religious situation as he might analyze it. For instance, you could do a case history of a religious person's life, an analysis of a terrorist act, or a study of ritual practices at a local church, synagogue, or mosque. What would your conclusions be about the motivations of the people involved? Why do people act as they do? For this paper, you may use your textbook as one of your sources. It is due **September 18**.

Paper #2 Term papers must be on a topic in the area of Religion and Psychology. You may study phenomena in American religion or in religions from other countries (trance states or shamanism in a particular culture, spiritual healing, religious suicide and martyrdom, effects of trauma on religious belief, why people join authoritarian and fundamentalist groups, etc.) This is an original research paper, so you should not depend on class readings, you should find outside sources. It is due **November 13**.

Academic Integrity and the Honor Code:

In this class, we follow the Honor Code of the College of Charleston, and no cheating and plagiarizing is permitted. There is a zero tolerance policy toward plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty in this course. On tests, no cheat sheets, writing on your clothing or body, or electronic devices with answers on them will be allowed. For papers, just make sure to cite your sources once per paragraph.

Anybody caught cheating will receive a failing grade for the course, which will show up on the transcript as an XF grade.

Nobody expects you to know research ideas without getting them from somewhere- giving sources lets us know where the ideas came from, and gives credit to the people who originally did the research. As long as you cite your sources, you should have no problem with plagiarism.

SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Assignment
8/21	Introduction	OAKS- Pew Forum data
8/23	Sigmund Freud	OAKS- Obsessive Thoughts...
8/28	Carl Jung	OAKS- Structure and Development of the Psyche
8/30	Piaget, Kohlberg, Fowler	OAKS- Faith and the Structuring of Meaning
9/4	Adler, Frankl, Maslow, Skinner	OAKS- Maslow
9/6	Consciousness and Meditation	Paths, 1 and 2 Goleman, Part 3
9/11	Lucid Dreaming Guest speaker	Paths, 3
9/13	Transpersonal Psychology- Guest speaker	Paths, 5 and 6
9/18	Entheogens and Psychedelics	Paths, 4 OAKS- Watts on Psychedelics PAPER #1 DUE!
9/20	Transcendence, NDE Great Chain of Being	Paths, 7, 8, 9
9/25	Compassionate Action Deep Ecology Discussion day	Paths, 10 and 11
9/27	TEST #1	
10/2	The Science and Neuroscience of Religious Experience, Guest speaker	

10/4	Eastern religion, meditation and empathy	Goleman, Part 1, 3 OAKS, Kakar article
10/9	Hindu Bhakti, TM, Yoga, Jainism	Goleman, Part 2, bhakti, TM, the yoga sections
10/11	Balinese trance: “Sac red Trances” film	OAKS, Trance and Dissociation
10/16	Kabbalah, hesychasm	Goleman, Part 2, Kabbalah, Hesychasm,
10/18	Islam and Sufism	Goleman, the rest of Part 2
10/23	Spiritual Direction, Guest speaker	
10/25	Concepts of soul, East and West	OAKS, Soul Cluster Goleman, Part 4
10/30	TEST #2	
11/1	Some problem areas: Exorcism and the Demon Theory of Disease	OAKS, Spiritual Warfare
11/6	Election Day- No class	
11/8	Brainwashing, thought reform, authoritarianism	OAKS, Lifton on ‘Thought Reform’
11/13	Authoritarianism and Toxic Faith, “Marjoe”	OAKS, Toxic Faith PAPER #2 DUE!
11/15	Study day- no class	
11/20	Lourdes and miracles- film “The Shrine at Lourdes”	OAKS- Ten Catholic Miracles
11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/27	Scientology: How a psychology becomes a religion	Take-home test due
11/29	Final discussion- Religion and Psychology in the USA	