REL 298.01 Body, Mind, and Spirit  
(M/W 2:00-3:15, ECTR 219)  
Dr. Lee Irwin  
4-B Glebe Street, Room 201  
Religious Studies Department, Fall 2015  
E-Mail Address: IrwinL@cofc.edu (send a message!)  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1:45-3:00, Mon & Weds. 12:00-1:45  
(or by appointment)

Course Description: This course will be a survey of current ideas and research in areas related to trans-traditional theories of mind and body in relationship to embodied spirituality, neuroscience, biocentrism, physics, and studies in consciousness, afterlife, near death and mediumship. The purpose of the course is to explore these theories as they might impact the field of religious studies and shape or reconstruct our understanding of what it means to be religious or spiritual. The course will be interdisciplinary and will explore discourses in neuropsychology, biology, religion and astrophysics that have contributed to new perspectives in how body, mind and spirit are interrelated. As this in an introductory overview of various fields related to religious studies, no previous knowledge on these topics is required.

Books:  


Lanza, Robert and Bob Berman, Biocentrism: How Life and Consciousness are the Keys to Understanding the True Nature of the Universe (BenBella Books, 2010) ISBN-10: 1935251740


Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): This course meets the requirements for General Education Certification based on the following two SLO. Outcome 1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture. Outcome 2: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. These outcomes will be assessed in Response Paper #3 (worth 5% of the final grade).

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. There will be 5 response papers (3 pages, each 5% = 25%) based on assigned readings; 3 exams (each 17% = 51%); and a final 10 page research paper based on class assigned readings, including a research question (4%) that you formulate and a finished paper (20%). Students are required to take exams and turn in writing assignments when scheduled. No makeups will be given unless there is a valid excuse, arranged in advance. Students must make up any missed assignments (or receive an F).
**Classroom Electronics:** Students must TURN OFF all electronic devices before class starts; you are not permitted to engage in texting or reading electronic mail (etc.) while class is in session. If you have a computer for taking notes, you must ONLY take notes (no jumping to read email or surf the web, unless requested). Violation of this code will result in deduction of points from your final grade average.

**Honor Code:** Lying, cheating, and plagiarism are violations of the Honor Code and are not permitted at the College. A student responsible for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure based on dishonesty. Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration on papers--working together without permission--is a form of cheating.

**Center for Student Learning** offers academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at [http://csl.cofc.edu](http://csl.cofc.edu) or call (843) 953-5635.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter to me from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Please discuss with me any special needs you may have. For more information regarding accommodation and the SNAP program, see: [http://www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm](http://www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm)

**Grading Scale:** Letter (or numerical) grades will be assigned as follows: A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-61), F (60 or lower).

**Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments must be done BEFORE the class for which they are assigned, not after; then you can follow the discussion, ask questions, and we can have an informed dialogue on the reading.

**PLEASE BRING THE ASSIGNED BOOK TO CLASS.**

I. **Week One:** August 26, “Introduction to Body, Mind & Spirit”
   A. Reading Assignment: *Neuroscience, Psychology, Religion*, pp. 1-26

II. **Week Two:** August 31, September 2
   A. Reading Assignment: *Neuroscience, Psychology, Religion*, pp. 27-53
   B. Reading Assignment: *Neuroscience, Psychology, Religion*, pp. 54-82
   C. **Response Paper #1 DUE, September 2**

III. **Week Three:** September 7, 9
    A. Reading Assignment: *Neuroscience, Psychology, Religion*, pp. 82-107
    B. Reading Assignment: *Neuroscience, Psychology, Religion*, pp. 108-136

IV. **Week Four:** September 14, 16
    A. **EXAM ONE: September 14**
    B. Reading Assignment: *Biocentrism*, pp. 1-39
V. **Week Five**: September 21, 23
   A. Reading Assignment: *Biocentrism*, pp. 41-81
   B. Reading Assignment: *Biocentrism*, pp. 83-127

VI. **Week Six**: September 28, 30
   A. Reading Assignment: *Biocentrism*, pp. 129-162
   B. Reading Assignment: *Biocentrism*, pp. 163-197
   C. **Response Paper #2, due September 30**

VII. **Week Seven**: October 5, 7
   A. Reading Assignment: *She Who Changes*, pp. 1-44
   B. Reading Assignment: *She Who Changes*, pp. 45-92

VIII. **Week Eight**: October 12, 14
   A. Reading Assignment: *She Who Changes*, pp. 93-141
   B. Reading Assignment: *She Who Changes*, pp. 143-196
   C. **Response Paper #3 DUE October 14 SLO**

IX. **Week Nine**: October (19), 21
   A. **Fall Break**, no class September 19
   B. Reading Assignment: *She Who Changes*, pp. 197-244

X. **Week Ten**: October 26, 28
   A. **EXAM TWO, October 26**
   B. Reading Assignment: *The God Theory*, pp. 1-33

XI. **Week Eleven**: November 2, 4
   A. Reading Assignment: *The God Theory*, pp. 35-60
   B. Reading Assignment: *The God Theory*, pp. 61-92
   C. **Response Paper #4 DUE, November 4**

XII. **Week Twelve**: November 9, 11
   A. Reading Assignment: *The God Theory*, pp. 93-122

XIII. **Week Thirteen**: November 16, 18
   A. **EXAM THREE, November 16**
   B. Reading Assignment: *Immortal Mind*, pp. 1-28

XIV. **Week Fourteen**: November 23
   A. Reading Assignment: *Immortal Mind*, pp. 29-61
   B. Reading Assignment: *Immortal Mind*, pp. 61-88
   C. **Research Question / Bibliography DUE, November 23**
VX. **Week Fifteen**: November 30, December 2  
A. Reading Assignment: *Immortal Mind*, pp. 89-120  
B. Reading Assignment: *Immortal Mind*, pp. 120-149  
B. **Response Paper #5 Due, November 30**

XVI. **Week Sixteen**: December 7  
A. Assignment: Work on Paper!  
B. **Final Paper Due, December 7** (NO LATE PAPERS!)