RELS 365.01: RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. June McDaniel
Spring, 2018

Office: 4 Glebe St, Room 101
Office hours: MW 2:00-4:00, and by appointment
Office phone: 953-5956
E-mail: mcdanielj@cofc.edu

Texts:
Readings on OAKS (print and bring to class)
Goleman, The Varieties of Meditative Experience
Walsh and Vaughan, Paths Beyond Ego
Watters, Crazy like Us
Frankl, Man’s Search for Meaning
Smith, The Self Possessed (optional, on reserve at library)

Grading:
Grades will be based upon 2 tests, 2 papers, and one class presentation. Each will be worth 1/5 of the total class grade. There is no comprehensive final. Class participation (with responses each class to the readings) and homework will count into the presentation grade.

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 FIVE allowed absences. On the fifth 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. An additional point will be added to the total grade for perfect attendance.
Papers: Papers should be based on ideas and approaches covered in class, and should be at least 10 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 for each of the papers (internet and encyclopedia sources do not count for these, though they may be added as extra sources). You should discuss your topic to me about two weeks before the paper is due. If the paper is late, 10 points will be deducted per class late. Papers must be in hard copy, no e-mail copies 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 the religious situation as the psychologist might analyze it. For instance, you could do a case history of a religious person’s life, an analysis of a suicide bomber’s views, or a study of religious attitudes towards same-sex marriage or women priests. What would you say about the motivations of the people involved? Why do people act as they do? It is due 2/7.

Paper #2 Term papers should be on a topic in the area of religious experience. You may study phenomena in American religion or in religions from other countries (trance states or shamanism in a particular culture, possession by the Holy Spirit, spiritual healing, meditation, visions of Virgin Mary, encounter with ancestors using peyote, etc) Analyze the event as people within the religion might understand it. This is an original research paper, so you should not depend on class readings. It is due 4/6.

Presentation Students should divide into groups of two, and analyze a world event from the perspective of religion and psychology. This can be shown as a debate, a discussion, or a presentation for an academic conference. This could include creation of religious communities, religious suicide and martyrdom, wars within religious groups (Sunni vs Shia, Catholic vs Protestant), why people join fundamentalist groups, etc. Have a wide-ranging discussion, showing what you have learned in the class.

ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF FOR CLASS! NO TEXTING!

Center for Student Learning: Students can use the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills for presentations and papers. They offer tutoring, supplemental instruction and workshops. The services are available at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please call (843)953-5635 or visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu.
Academic Integrity and the Honor Code: There is a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty in this course. This means that anyone caught taking credit for work that is not his or her own, or cheating in any other way, will receive a failing grade for the course, which will show up on the transcript as an XF grade. Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code of the College.

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.

Disability: If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information, please contact www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm

This course will fulfill the General Education Student Learning Outcomes: SLO Outcome 1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture. SLO Outcome 2: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

Students will fulfill the learning outcomes in the signature assignment, paper #2, “Term Paper.”
# SYLLABUS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>1/10</td>
<td>Sigmund Freud, Freudian Psychology</td>
<td>OAKS- Obsessive Acts</td>
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<td>1/12</td>
<td>Carl Jung, Analytic Psychology</td>
<td>OAKS- Structure and Development of the Psyche</td>
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<td>1/15</td>
<td>MLK Day, no class</td>
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<td>1/17</td>
<td>William James, Pragmatic psychology</td>
<td>OAKS- Varieties of Religious Experience, chapters IV- VII</td>
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<td>1/19</td>
<td>Piaget, Kohlberg, Fowler- cognitive and moral development</td>
<td>OAKS- Faith Development, Kohlberg</td>
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<td>1/22</td>
<td>Maslow- Humanistic psychology Adler, Skinner- dynamics of inferiority, behaviorism</td>
<td>OAKS- Maslow OAKS- Adler, Skinner on religion</td>
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</table>
| 1/24 | Frankl and Existential Psychology | Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*  
**Do response paper, 1-2 pages**  
What is meaningful to you? |
| 1/26 | Consciousness and Meditation | Paths, 1 and 2, Goleman, Part 3 OAKS- Hood Mysticism Scale |
| 1/29 | Lucid Dreaming, OOBE (Jim Denosky) | Paths, 3 |
| 1/31 | Neurobiology of religious experience (Jennifer Wright) | OAKS- Searching for God in Brain |
| 2/2  | Entheogens and Psychedelics (peyote, psilocybin, ayahuasca) | Paths, 4 OAKS- Watts on Psychedelics, Griffiths, Altered States |
2/5 Transpersonal Psychology
(Zhenya Gelfand, MD) Paths, 5 and 6
OAKS, MDMA article

2/7 Transcendence, NDE
Great Chain of Being Paths, 7, 8, 9
PAPER #1 DUE!

2/9 Spiritual emergency OAKS- Spiritual emergency scale
From spiritual emergency to problem

2/12 Compassionate Action Paths, 10 and 11
Ecopsychology Is there an ecological unconscious?
(Todd Levasseur)

2/14 Discussion day

2/16 TEST #1

2/19 Concepts of soul OAKS, Soul Cluster

2/21 Buddhism and meditation Goleman, Part 1, 3

2/23 Hindu folk religion, possession
trance, Upanishads, Vedanta Smith, The Self Possessed
(optional, library reserve)

2/26 Hindu Bhakti devotion
Yoga, Jainism Goleman, Part 2, bhakti,
Goleman TM, the yoga sections

2/28 Daoism and acupuncture
(Chad Houfek, acupuncturist)

3/2 Balinese trance
(Sacred Trances film)

3/5 Judaism, Kabbalah Goleman, Part 2, kabbalah,

3/7 Orthodoxy, mind and spirit
(Rev. John Parker) Goleman, Part 2, hesychasm

3/9 Mind and soul in Catholic
(Sr Margaret Kerry)

3/12 Mind in Christian Science
(Sarah Hyatt, CSB)

3/14 New Age/ Gnostic Christianity
Meghan Don
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Islam and Sufism</td>
<td>Goleman, the rest of Part 2</td>
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<td>3/19</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
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<td>3/23</td>
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<td>3/26</td>
<td>Mind, soul, spirit Discussion day</td>
<td>Goleman, Part 4</td>
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<td>3/28</td>
<td><strong>TEST #2</strong></td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Some problem areas:</td>
<td>OAKS, Spiritual Warfare, Exorcism</td>
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<td>Exorcism and the Demon</td>
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<td>Theory of Disease</td>
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<td>4/2</td>
<td>Brainwashing, thought reform, ‘cults’</td>
<td>OAKS, Lifton on Thought Reform, brainwashing,</td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>Authoritarianism and Toxic Faith</td>
<td>OAKS, Toxic Faith</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Spiritualism and occultism</td>
<td><strong>PAPER #2 DUE!</strong></td>
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<td>4/9</td>
<td>Scientology: How a psychology becomes a religion</td>
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<td>Class presentations</td>
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<td>4/20</td>
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<td>4/23</td>
<td>Final discussion</td>
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**Do the reading** before you come to class, and bring in a printed copy. Doing this will ensure that everyone will get more out of the course. In listening and reading try to think about the implications of the speaker's or author's words. (Don't just memorize them!)