

RELS 375 SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:  
RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. June McDaniel  
Fall, 2007

Office: 4 Glebe St, Room 101  
Office hours: Weds 11:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00, Thurs 3:00-4:00  
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Texts: Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*  
Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*  
James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*  
Goleman, *The Varieties of Meditative Experience*  
Walsh and Vaughan, *Paths Beyond Ego*  
Course packet, at SASE Ink.

Grading: Grades will be based upon 3 tests and 1 paper, each will be worth 1/4 of the total class grade. There is no comprehensive final, just the third test (which will follow the pattern of the previous two).

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 **THREE allowed absences**. On the third 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 **10-12 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.

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 (speaking in tongues, trance states and shamanism in a particular culture, spiritual healing, religious suicide and martyrdom, issues in 'cults,' why people join authoritarian and fundamentalist groups, etc.)

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

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Date	Topic	Assignment
8/21	Introduction	
8/23	Meaning and Religion	Frankl, <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>
8/30	Freud, Why do we have Religion?	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
9/4	Freudian Theory	
9/6	Jung and symbolism	Course packet, Jung, 'Structure and Dynamics'
9/11	James and variety	James, <i>Varieties of Religious Experience</i> , Chaps 1-10
9/13	James, continued and others	James, chaps. 11-20
9/18	TEST #1	
9/20	Library day- Learn about research	Meet in Library room 227
9/25	Developmental religion	Course packet, Fowler, E-reserve, Rizzuto (Psych. Fdtns of Belief in God)
9/27	Religion and meditation, Buddhism	Goleman, <i>Varieties of Meditative Experience</i> Part 1, part 3
10/2	Hindu Bhakti, TM, Yoga	Goleman, Part 2, bhakti, TM, the yoga sections
10/4	Kabbalah, hesychasm Sufism	Goleman, Part 2, Kabbalah, Hesychasm, Sufism
10/9	Other religions	Goleman, the rest of Part 2, Part 4

10/11	Transpersonal vision, Meditation	Walsh, section 1, 2
10/16	FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)	
10/18	Lucid dreams, Out of Body experience, Near death experience (guest speaker)	Walsh, section 3, and chapter 32
10/23	Drugs and religious experience	Walsh, section 4 <b>PAPER TOPIC DUE!</b>
10/25	Spiritual therapies and problems	Walsh, sections 5-7 E-reserve 'Toxic Faith: 10 characteristics'
10/30	TEST #2	
11/1	Religion, psychology and Science (guest speaker)	Walsh, section 8
11/6	Brainwashing, thought reform, authoritarianism	Course packet, Lifton 'Thought reform'
11/8	Social and Psychological Influences on Religion (guest speaker)	<b>PAPER DUE!</b>
11/13	Trance states, exorcism, Film: 'Sacred Trances'	E-reserve, 'Exorcism of the Possessed'
11/15	Altered states (guest speaker)	
11/20	Study day- no class	
11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK (no class)	
11/27	Scientology: How a psychology becomes a religion	
11/29	TEST #3	