

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE			
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Fall 2015</b>	<b>COURSE NO:</b>	<b>PSYC 341</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>		<b>COURSE NAME:</b>	<b>PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY</b>
<b>OFFICE:</b>	<b>LOCAL:</b>	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b>	<b>CREDITS: 3</b>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>			

**COURSE FORMAT:**

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including PSYC 100.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines religious and spiritual experiences, attitudes and behaviours from multiple angles within contemporary Psychology. Themes of the course include: history of empirical inquiry into religion and spirituality; modern research methods; interacting roles of biological and psychosocial factors in the formation of religious commitments and predilection toward spiritual experiences; relationships between religious and spiritual orientations and physical and mental health; and determinants of religious behaviours, from altruism to terrorism.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply critical and analytical thinking skills to the examination of topics in religion and spirituality from several perspectives within Psychology
- Exercise communication skills through informed and respectful discussion of the value and limits of a scientific approach to religion and spirituality
- Utilize research skills and quantitative reasoning in the design of research projects to test hypotheses about religious and spiritual behaviour and experience, employing a range of methodologies

**REQUIRED READING:**

Fuller, A.R. (2008). *Psychology and religion: Classical theorists and contemporary developments* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (selections)

Paloutzian, R.F., & Park, C.L. (Eds.). (2005). *Handbook of the psychology of religion and spirituality*. New York: Guilford Press. (selections)

Supplemented by selected articles from journals such as *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and other relevant sources (available via on-line databases).

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Hood, R.W., Hill, P.C., & Spilka, B. (2009). *The psychology of religion: An empirical approach* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: Guilford Press.

James, W. *The varieties of religious experience*. (there are many editions of this classic)

*Psychology of Religion Newsletter* (American Psychological Association Division 36), available on-line.

**COURSE CONTENT:**Lecture Topics include:

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: Existential and Historical Background
- Week 3: Pioneers in Psychology of Religion 1: James and Freud
- Week 4: Pioneers in Psychology of Religion 2: Jung and Maslow
- Week 5: Evolutionary and Biological Aspects
- Week 6: Spiritual Experiences 1: Spontaneous Experiences
- Week 7: Spiritual Experiences 2: Induced Experiences
- Week 8: Alternative Psychologies 1: The Example of Western Esotericism
- Week 9: Religious Conversion and Spiritual Transformation
- Week 10: Personality Factors in Religion and Spirituality
- Week 11: Religion, Spirituality and Health
- Week 12: Social Psychology of Religious Organizations
- Week 13: Alternative Psychologies 2: The Example of Tibetan Buddhism
- Weeks 14/15: Exam Period

Student Presentation Topics include:

Fundamentalism, Prejudice and Religious Violence; Altruism and Forgiveness; Drug-Induced Religious and Spiritual Experiences; Psychology of Prayers and Curses; Religion and Spirituality in Psychotherapy; Cults and Anti-Cults; Religious Apparitions; Glossolalia and Stigmata; Near Death Experiences; Psychology of Atheism.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Midterm Exam: Surveying course content (readings and instructor-presented material) from the first part of the semester.

Class Presentation and Essay:

Team presentations and individual essays on topics from an assigned list.

Final Exam: A cumulative exam based on the course content (readings, instructor-presented and student-presented material).

Fourth Hour Activities:

Moodle site.

**EVALUATION PROFILE:**

Presentation:.....	15 %
Essay: .....	20 %
Midterm: .....	20 %
Moodle: .....	15 %
Final Exam:.....	30 %
	100 %

**GRADING PROFILE:**

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

**OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**

*Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.*

- Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes.
- Missed Exams:** Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from physician).
- Late Assignments:** Assignments are to be submitted directly to the instructor, at the beginning of class, on the due date; after that, they are late. No assignments will be accepted by e-mail. All late assignments will be penalized 10 % per day. No late assignments will be accepted after the passage of exactly one week after the original due date and time, nor shall any late assignments be accepted without the instructor's prior approval.
- Incomplete Grades:** Given at the discretion of the instructors. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.
- English Usage:** University level writing skills are required in all assignments. Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors will result in a reduced grade and, if they are excessive, may result in a refusal to grade the assignment. See the English Writing Centre for help.
- Electronic Devices:** Laptop computers may be used in class only for the purpose of taking lecture/discussion notes. No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During classes, tests and exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.
- Emergency Procedures:** Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.