

# **REL 111: RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN MODERN AMERICA**

## **SECTION 01**

*“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”*

*(William Faulkner)*

**Description:** This course surveys the religious landscape of modern America, with emphasis on issues of pluralism, tolerance, and inclusion.

**Instructor:** Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

*Email:* roleary@uwsp.edu

*Office:* Rooms 162 in Marshfield & 311 in Wausau

*Office Hours:* Monday & Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, via Zoom, or by appointment

**Schedule:** 9:30 – 10:45 AM, Tuesday and Thursday

**Learning Objectives:** Having taken this course, you will be able to:

1. Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts and other cultural artifacts that reflect on the meaning of American identity and the struggle for equality and human dignity.
2. Describe and evaluate the influence of important people and texts at the intersection of American religion and culture.
3. Apply analytical ideas like authority, nativism, pluralism, and religious freedom to texts, current affairs, and your own experiences.
4. Analyze how people or institutions in the United States have constructed and negotiated diverse identities based on ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, and religion.

**Note on Electronic Items:** Computers, tablets, and cellphones are not permitted in this class. Exemptions to this rule will be made only with official documentation of a disability requiring the use of electronic devices. Recording devices are permitted.

**Late Work Policy:** Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 5 points per day that the assignment is late deducted from any points the assignment earns.

## READING LIST

### Textbook

Edwin S. Gaustad, et al., *A Documentary History of Religion in America*, Fourth Edition

### Course Pack

John L. O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity"

Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address" and "Gettysburg Address"

Selected Anti-Catholic Political Cartoons from the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America"

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (excerpt)

## CONCERNS & RESOURCES

Being a Pointer means going to class regularly, doing your work outside of class, and asking for help if there are questions or concerns.

**Academic Misconduct:** Copying off someone's test, plagiarism, claiming credit for work that is not yours, and all other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at UW-Stevens Point. If a student is confused about what exactly academic misconduct is, there is information available regarding rules and procedures for the process. You can also visit with your faculty or learn how to cite the work of others at the Writing Lab.

**Academic Success:** Your full-time job at UW-Stevens Point is *to be a student*. Being successful depends a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asking questions or finding support if you feel lost. We have an amazing Tutoring-Learning Center if you want to learn how to be a better student or need subject-specific help.

**Disability Services:** UW-Stevens Point is committed to supporting students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitates accommodations for UWSP students who have conditions that could impact their experience as a student.

## EVALUATION & GRADING

The definition of an A student is one who not only does A work on the final project, but who also comes to class prepared at least 90 percent of the time. In other words, each category of course work is important. To earn a particular grade, you must meet or exceed the standard for every category, as listed on the table below.

Course Grade	Attendance	Discussion Assignments	Current Affairs Project
A	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average
B	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average
C	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average
D	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average
F	< 60% average	< 60% average	< 60% average

**Attendance:** For each class session you attend class, arrive on time, and do not miss a significant portion of the class period, you will receive 100% for your attendance score for that day. If you arrive late, leave early, or otherwise miss a significant portion of a class period, you will receive 80% for your attendance score for that day. If for any reason you need to miss a significant part of the course, it is your responsibility to work out appropriate accommodation with the instructor.

**Discussion Assignments:** Academic excellence requires coming to class prepared and ready to take responsibility for one's own learning. Each week that "Discussion Assignment" is listed on the schedule there will be a discussion assignment due by the middle of the week. You will need to bring two copies with you to class: one that you will turn in to receive credit and the other that you keep.

**Current Affairs Project:** Throughout the semester, you will use the newspaper databases available through the UWSP Library to write short essays analyzing how concepts like authority, nativism, and pluralism apply to contemporary American life. For the end of the semester, you will write a final essay reflecting on how your research and analysis helped shape, change, or deepen your thinking about how people or institutions in the United States continue to negotiate issues of ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, and/or religion.

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester you will have opportunities to earn extra credit by attending events or workshops, doing additional reading, et cetera. Each extra credit opportunity you complete will add one-half of a grade level in your lowest category.

## REL 111 COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1**

---

#### Required Reading

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “The Old World and the New,” pgs. 1 – 5
- ✓ “A Modell of Christian Charity,” pgs. 34 – 35

### **Week 2**

*Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class*

---

#### Required Reading

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Anti-Catholicism,” pg. 29
- ✓ “William Penn and the Liberty of Conscience,” pgs. 42 – 43
- ✓ “Consensus and Conflict in the Postwar Era,” pgs. 483 – 490
- ✓ “Hiroshima,” pgs. 491 – 493

#### Recommended Reading

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “New Spain,” pgs. 13 – 18
- ✓ “Americanizing the Ways of Faith,” pgs. 45 – 48

### **Week 3**

*Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class*

---

#### Required Reading

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Anne Hutchinson,” pgs. 49 – 51
- ✓ “William Penn and the Native Americans,” pg. 66
- ✓ “Cold War,” pgs. 501 – 502
- ✓ “Vietnam,” pgs. 507 – 508
- ✓ “Abraham Joshua Heschel,” pgs. 511 – 513
- ✓ “Evil Empire,” pgs. 513 – 515

#### Recommended Reading

- ✓ “Witchcraft at Salem,” pgs. 52 – 54
- ✓ “Reds and Our Churches,” pgs. 502 – 504

**Week 4*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Puritan Anti-Slavery,” pgs. 70 – 72
- ✓ “Quaker Abolitionism,” pgs. 74 – 75
- ✓ “Sanctifying the Slave System,” pgs. 75 – 76
- ✓ “Civil Rights,” pg. 568
- ✓ “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” pgs. 569 – 570
- ✓ “Black Power,” pg. 572 – 573
- ✓ “Malcolm X,” pgs. 574 – 575

**Recommended Reading**

- ✓ “I Have a Dream,” pgs. 570 – 571
- ✓ “Black Economic Development Conference Manifesto,” pgs. 576 – 577
- ✓ “James H Cone,” pg. 579

**Week 5*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Jonathan Edwards,” pgs. 77 – 81
- ✓ “George Whitfield,” pgs. 81 – 83
- ✓ “Sarah Osborn,” pgs. 89 – 91
- ✓ “Thomas Jefferson’s Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom,” pgs. 103 – 104

**Recommended Reading**

- ✓ “James Madison Memorial and Remonstrance,” pgs. 105 – 110

**Week 6*****Current Affairs Paper due Thursday at Midnight***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Evangelical Empire: Rise and Fall,” pgs. 119 – 124
- ✓ “Nativism,” pgs. 176 – 178
- ✓ “Religious Know-Nothings,” 180 – 181

**Week 7*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***Course Pack*

- ✓ John L. O’Sullivan, “The Great Nation of Futurity”
- ✓ Library of Congress, “Primary Source Set: Native American Boarding Schools”
- ✓ Selected Editorial Cartoons from the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Nativism,” pgs. 176 – 181 (review)
- ✓ “Religious Freedom,” pgs. 604 – 609

**Week 8*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Complex Marriage,” pgs. 186 – 187
- ✓ “Latter-Day Saints and New Revelation,” pgs. 189 – 190
- ✓ “Joseph Smith Recounts His First Vision,” pgs. 190 – 192
- ✓ “Joseph Smith’s Revelation on Plural Marriage,” pgs. 192 – 194
- ✓ “Margaret Fox,” pgs. 208 – 210

**Recommended Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Brigham Young Assumes Leadership,” pg. 195
- ✓ “Exodus Announced,” pgs. 195 – 196

**Week 9*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***Course Pack*

- ✓ Robert Bellah, “Civil Religion in America”

**Recommended Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Ronald Reagan,” pgs. 636 – 639

**Week 10*****Current Affairs Paper due Thursday at Midnight***

---

**Required Reading**

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Billy Sunday,” pgs. 397 – 398
- ✓ “Foursquare Gospel,” pgs. 400 – 402
- ✓ “Doctrine,” pgs. 405 – 407
- ✓ “Experience,” pgs. 407 – 409

**Recommended Reading**

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Shakers,” pgs. 202 – 204
- ✓ “Millerites,” pgs. 204 – 206
- ✓ “Adventists (Seventh-Day),” pgs. 206 – 207
- ✓ “Dwight L. Moody,” pgs. 394 – 396
- ✓ “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” pgs. 399 – 400

**Week 11*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading**

*Course Pack*

- ✓ Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address”
- ✓ Abraham Lincoln, “Gettysburg Address”

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “The Religion of the Enslaved,” pgs. 211 – 214
- ✓ “Nat Turner,” pgs. 214 – 217
- ✓ “Frederick Douglass,” pgs. 218 - 222

**Recommended Reading**

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Daniel A. Payne,” pgs. 217 – 218

**Week 12: (Thanksgiving Break)****No Discussion Assignments**

---

**Required Reading**

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “U.S. House of Representatives,” pgs. 229 – 232
- ✓ “Cherokee Nation v. State of Georgia,” pgs. 232 – 234

**Week 13*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***Course Pack*

- ✓ Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (excerpts)

*A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Challenging Institutions,” pgs. 580 – 588
- ✓ “Feminist Theologies,” pgs. 588 – 593

**Recommended Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Promise Keepers,” pgs. 642 – 643
- ✓ “Anti-Feminist Women?” pgs. 643 – 646

**Week 14*****Current Affairs Paper due Thursday at Midnight***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Into the New Millennium,” pgs. 655 – 658
- ✓ “Churches Divide,” pgs. 678 – 687
- ✓ “The Rise of ‘the Nones’,” pgs. 690 – 693

**Recommended Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Responding to Obergefell,” pgs. 687 – 690

**Week 15*****Discussion Assignment due Thursday in Class***

---

**Required Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “For Republic,” pgs. 353 – 354
- ✓ “For Empire,” pgs. 354 – 355
- ✓ “September 11, 2001,” pgs. 714 – 722

**Recommended Reading***A Documentary History of Religion in America*

- ✓ “Hope, Anguish, and the 2016 Election,” pgs. 741 – 748

**Week 16: Finals Week*****Current Affairs Reflection due Friday at Midnight***

---