Your Faculty Director: Deborah Firestone
Your UGC Advisor(s): Erika Benhardt
Your Quad Director: Jeffrey MiWe

HDV 102.09
Undergraduate College Seminar
Spring 2016

Course Meeting Day/Time: Wed, 12n-12:53
Location: Center for Global Studies HDV, Room 121-123

Meeting Pattern: This class meets for 53 minutes per week for 14 weeks

1/25/16

Instructor: Chris Filstrup
Email: Christian.filstrup@stonybrook.edu
Phone: 632-2603

Office Hours: After class or by appointment; my office is in the Chemistry Library, Chemistry Building, 2nd floor

COURSE DESCRIPTION In this course we will discuss various aspects of religion. What is religion? How do we talk about it? Can we compare different religions? To help us do this we will interview campus religious leaders, both chaplains and students. We will investigate key concepts and terms.

COURSE GOALS
- Improve critical thinking by developing evaluative, problem-solving, and expressive skills.
- Enhance group communication skills through discussions, small-group work, presentations or debates.
- Develop intellectual curiosity and better understand the role of a student in an academic community.
● Learn how to listen to and talk with people with religious beliefs and practices different from our own.
● Learn how to structure an interview and how to report the findings of an interview.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND INFORMATION

● Class attendance and participation: Attendance and active class participation are required.

● Classroom Environment: As members of the seminar, you are expected to read, discuss, and think critically about seminar topics and your responses to them. This does not mean that you are not supposed to disagree or have emotional reactions to the material, but you should also be willing to engage those reactions - and your classmates - in respectful and thoughtful ways. As a class community we should always be mindful of different people’s experiences. If at any time you have concerns about the material or class discussions, please speak to me.

● Laptops, smartphones, tablets: You may use electronic devices only for classroom purposes. I will be strict about this.

● Blackboard and Email: Students are expected to check their Stony Brook email account and log into Blackboard regularly for important course information from their instructor and Undergraduate College Advisors.

● Instructor email and appointments: I am accessible via email and will try to respond to your emails as soon as I can. However, I may not check email continuously throughout the day so please do not wait until the last minute to email concerns or questions – typically any question that requires a more complicated response or thoughtful conversation should be asked in person/during office hours (e.g. grading concerns; further explanation of readings, etc). When sending emails, please include the class/section in the subject line and your full name somewhere in the body of the email. Students are encouraged to see me after class or make an appointment with me.

● Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, located at ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128 (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.
• **Academic Integrity:** Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be held personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, and Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html)

• **Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

• **Course Evaluation:** Each semester Stony Brook University asks students to provide feedback on their courses and instructors through an online course evaluation system. The course evaluation results are used by the individual faculty, department chairs and deans to help the faculty enhance their teaching skills and are used as part of the personnel decision for faculty promotion and tenure. No individually identifiable data are ever reported back to the university or instructor. Students who have completed previous evaluations can view all faculty ratings at: [https://classie-evals.stonybrook.edu/](https://classie-evals.stonybrook.edu/)

• **Academic Success and Tutoring Center (ASTC):** The ASTC provides free academic support services for all undergraduate students, including one-on-one tutoring, small group tutoring, academic success coaching, and public speaking seminars. Learn more about these services and additional campus resources at [www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring](http://www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring).

• **UGC Events and Programs:** Getting involved and participating in campus life is an essential part of being a successful college student. As part of your 101 seminar, attending events and submitting reflection papers about those events was/is part of required course assignments. Although you will not have the same event requirements and assignments in this 102 seminar, you are expected to continue participating in events offered by your Undergraduate College as part of your Undergraduate College affiliation. (For students who are part of University Scholars, attendance at Scholars programs continues to be a requirement in Spring 2016.)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
Requirements for the course include 1) class participation: this consists of: a) completing the readings and viewings prior to the relevant class; b) bringing at least three questions to ask guest presenters; and c) contributing to discussions. 60% of final grade); 2) two quizzes identifying key terms (20%); 3) two short essays (20%). Attendance: two unexcused absences are allowed but keep in mind that 60% of your grade is class participation; unexcused absences beyond two will reduce your final grade by one notch (e.g., A to A-). For an excused absence, email me.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The First-Year Seminar (102) is a 1-credit course for which students will receive a grade A-F. The following grading scale applies for this seminar:

93-100 (A)
90-92 (A-)
87-89 (B+)
83-86 (B)
80-82 (B-)
77-79 (C+)
73-76 (C)
70-72 (C-)
67-69 (D+)
60-66 (D)
59-0 (F)
1/27/16  Talking about ourselves:
          Course requirements; brief introductions

2/3/16  Talking about each other I

          In class, we will prepare a set of questions and then you will interview
          each other

          First paper assignment due 2/14/16:  100-150 word, double-spaced
          interview you conducted 2/3; in paragraph form, not a transcript

2/10/16  Talking about each other II

          In class you present your interview to the class.  I will select one
          person to comment on each oral report -- this is about curiosity.

          Reading assignment for 2/17:  Interfaith Center website
          (http://www.sbinterfaith.org/)

          Video assignment for 2/17: YouTube – “World Parliament of Religions
          2015” -- https://www.youtube.com/user/parliamentofreligion

2/17/16  What is religion? Why are there so many religions? Singular or plural?

          Finish interview presentations. Discuss general ideas about religion.

          Viewing assignment for 2/24: YouTube – “Gateshead Yeshiva: past
          and present” and

          “A rare filming of the top ultra-Orthodox yeshiva, Yeshivat Hebron”
Reading assignment for 2/24: “Kosher” in Contemporary American Religion -- library.stonybrook.edu>databases>G>Gale Virtual Reference Library>kosher food>scroll down the page to Kosher in Contemporary American Religion

2/24/16 Jews: Rabbi Joseph Topek

Topic: Learning as religious practice; also food

Reading assignment for 3/2/16: read the Wikipedia article “Civil Religion,” first paragraph and section on the United States

3/2/16 Civil religion: Frank Myers, Professor emeritus, Political Science

Topic: What does it mean to be religious in a secular society?


Viewing assignment: YouTube – “Sacrament 101: Eucharist (how we receive)”

3/9/16 Beliefs and practices

ID quiz

Discuss the difference between belief and practice


Viewing assignment for 3/23: YouTube –“Hajj documentary National Geographic”
3/16/16  Spring break: no class

3/23/16  Muslims: Sister Sanaa Nadim [TBA]
          Topic: Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)

          Viewing assignment for 3/30: YouTube
          Ganesh: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9A0y2ohGt8
          Chhath bathing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8br3Epjbr8

3/30/16  Hindus: S.N. Sridhar, Professor, Dept. Asian and Asian American Studies
          Topic: puja

          Viewing assignment for 4/6: YouTube
          Namo Avolokiteshvara: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntBFfYFlbV8
          Stanford University Conversation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe1HU4GiF90
          Oprah Winfrey interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe1HU4GiF90

          Reading assignment:

4/6/16  Buddhists: Rev. Linda Anderson and Prof. Hyun Choo
          Topic: Meditation and mindfulness
4/13/16  Catholics: Rev. Sean Magaldi [TBA]
         Topic: Pope Francis

4/20/16  Atheism: is it a kind of belief? Howard Gimple [TBA]
         Topic:

4/27/16  Protestants: Rev. Brenda Ford [TBA]
         Topic: How to read the Bible

5/4/16   ID quiz and wrap up