

Fall 2022 | OSU Stillwater Campus
Religious Studies 3543 | Section Number 68429
Religion, Race, and Social Justice Syllabus

About the Instructor

Instructor: Adam Soltani

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Office hours: By appointment only

Contact information:

For fastest response call or text on my cell. If no immediate response is needed, you can reach me by email.

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About the Course

Class meeting days and times: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Class location: Agricultural Hall 361

Required texts and materials:

The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley by Malcolm X and Alex Haley. ISBN: 9780345350688

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. ISBN: 9780525509288

Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise by Eboo Patel. ISBN: 9780691196817

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to examine the role of religion in the history and understanding of race, as well as how religion has been leveraged in relation to challenges of social justice. This course will examine these topics from a global perspective with a focus on the complex and productive relationships between religion, race, and social justice in the United States and Oklahoma.

Learning outcomes:

Upon successfully completing this course, the following outcomes will have been met:

1. Students will be able to identify the way religion has influenced the understanding of race and social justice throughout American history.

2. Students will be able to understand how religion has played a factor in influencing the social justice movements.
3. Students will have an overview of the complexities as it pertains to the intersection of religion, race, and social justice.
4. Students will improve upon their interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion by asking a range of questions across the theological, economic, racial, gendered, political and cultural spheres.
5. Students will have improved upon their analytical writing and research skills.
6. Students, in writing and class discussions, will learn how to critically engage scholarship.
7. Students will practice developing their own sense of critical self-awareness as the evaluator of religious traditions and social justice movements.

Structure and Method of the Course:

In this course, we will connect to the key themes and issues discussed in the textbook by engaging additional content and media. This course will be a mixture of lectures with small and large group discussions.

Grading

Course expectations and the final course grade

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Final Grade
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	15%
Weekly Quizzes	Ongoing	15%
Midterm Exam	10/13/2022	20%
Final Exam Outline	11/17/2022	10%
In-Class Presentations	11/29/22 - 12/8/2022	20%
Final Exam Paper	12/15/2022	20%

Attendance and Discussion Questions (15%): Attendance is mandatory. With the proper documentation, absences will be excused for school related activities, illness, and/or COVID positive exposure or test. Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussions on topics related to world religions.

Weekly Quizzes (15%): There will be weekly quizzes posted to Canvas that will cover assigned readings and handouts.

Midterm Exam (20%): The mid-term is multiple choice, true or false, short answer, and essay. The assessment covers all the material discussed with the class and the textbook prior to the day of the exam, which is scheduled to take place on **October 13th**.

In Class Presentation (20%): See details in the in-class presentation portion of the syllabus.

Final Exam Outline (10%): The 2-page outline is due no later than **November 17th** so that the instructor can review and provide feedback in a timely manner to ensure you are on the right track for your final essay submission. You must make any corrections or adjustments to your outline before submitting along with your final exam essay.

Final Exam (20%): See details in the Final Exam Essay portion of the syllabus.

Course Policies

Attendance: You will be expected to attend class sessions and engage in classroom discussion. Attendance is a part of your final grade and you will not be able to succeed in this course without attending class or alternatively engaging in Canvas and keeping in touch with the instructor on a regular basis. If you cannot attend in-person, you may attend virtually for attendance credit, however please get instructor approval first.

Use of electronic devices in class: In order to cultivate an engaged classroom culture, thank you for refraining from the use of your cell phone during class time. If you must use your phone, please step outside of class. Laptops and tablets will be permitted for the purpose of note taking. Negative consequences for violating this policy could include a reduction in the student's grade.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted past the due date unless prior approval has been given by the instructor for extenuating circumstances.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be listed on Canvas throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity: OSU is committed to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violate academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and altering academic records) will result in an official academic sanction. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. 101 Whitehurst | Phone: (405) 744-5627 | Website: <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu>

Students with Disabilities: If you need special accommodations the University will try to make appropriate arrangements. These arrangements will need to be made ahead of time through the Student Disability Services Office, 315 Student Union | Phone: (405) 744 – 7116 | Website: <https://sds.okstate.edu>

Schedule

Date	To Prepare for Class	In-Class Activities and Topics
Week 1 8/23 – 8/25	<i>Review Syllabus on Canvas</i>	Introduction to course, Overview of Syllabus. Who was Malcolm X?
		What is Religion? Race? Social Justice?
Week 2 8/30 – 9/1	<i>Read Patel Pages 3 - 32</i>	Religious Diversity and the American Promise
		Religious Diversity and the American Promise cont.
Week 3 9/6 – 9/8	<i>Read Kendi Pages 13 - 23</i>	Definitions
	<i>Read Kendi Pages 24 - 34</i>	Dueling Consciousness
Week 4 9/13 – 9/15	<i>Read Kendi Pages 35 – 55</i>	Power & Biology
	<i>Read Kendi Pages 56 - 80</i>	Ethnicity & Body
Week 5 9/20 – 9/22	<i>Read Patel Pages 33 - 44</i>	Cordoba House
		The Rise of Islamophobia in America
Week 6 9/27 – 9/29	<i>Read Kendi Pages 107 – 121</i>	Color
	<i>Read Kendi Pages 122 - 150</i>	White & Black
Week 7 10/4 – 10/6	<i>Read Patel Pages 66 - 94</i>	Towards an Interfaith America
		The American <i>Ummah</i> and Islamophobia
Week 8 10/11 – 10/13	<i>See Midterm Study Guide on Canvas</i>	Review for Midterm Exam
	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
Week 9 10/18 – 10/20	<i>Read handouts posted to Canvas</i>	The Civil Rights Movement and Christianity
		The Difficult Origins of the KKK
Week 10 10/25 – 10/27	<i>Read Haley Pages 1 - 72</i>	The Nightmare of Malcolm Little
		Is America a Fundamentally Racist Nation?
Week 11 11/1 – 11/3	<i>Read Haley Pages 73 – 153</i>	The Rise of Detroit Red
		The Struggle for the Soul of Black America
Week 12 11/8 – 11/10	<i>Read Haley Pages 154 - 214</i>	From Satan to Savior
		Religion in the Prison System
Week 13 11/15 – 11/17	<i>Read Haley Pages 215 - 293</i>	Minister Malcolm X & The Rise and Fall of the Nation of Islam
	<i>Read Haley Pages 294 - 370</i>	The Pilgrimage of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz
Week 14 11/21 – 11/25	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
	<i>Fall Break/University Holiday</i>	<i>Fall Break/University Holiday</i>
Week 15 11/29 – 12/1		In-Class Presentations
		In-Class Presentations
Week 16 12/6 – 12/8		In-Class Presentations
		In-Class Presentations
12/15	Final Exam Due	Final Exam Due

In Class Presentation

Description of assignment or project:

Students will use the following topic(s) to complete a comprehensive in-class presentation. The goal of this assignment is to educate each other regarding the intersections of religion, race, and social justice. When preparing your presentation consider the following questions and use quality references.

- How does religion contribute to social justice?
- Do followers of a particular religion have a responsibility to promote and uphold social justice?
- What concrete steps can faith leaders and religious practitioners take to fight racism in American society?
- What role has the Christian Church in America, if any, played in social justice movements in America?
- Based on your understanding of religion, race, and social justice, what does a truly just society look like?

You can use PowerPoint, Keynote, Video, Photos, Handouts, and more. Be creative and think outside the box. Consider ways in which you can provide a full experience to your peers of Islam's influence on the world through the chosen country you will be presenting on.

Due Date:

Students will present in class on 11/29 through 12/8. Presentation order will be chosen at random, therefore, your presentations should be completed and ready and **submitted on or before November 29th**.

Grading criteria:

You have 15 minutes to complete your presentation. You will be graded based on the professionalism of your presentation, how prepared you are to present on the topic and answer questions, and your creativity in presenting the topic.

Final Exam Essay

Description of assignment or project:

Students will complete a 10-page essay paper on the following topic for the final exam.

An examination of the intersections of religion, race, and social justice in America with a focus on a particular social justice movement in American history and how religion played a role in the movement.

Use the *Autobiography of Malcolm X* as a foundation for your understanding of the topic.

The paper will consist of the following:

- Cover Page
- 2-page outline
- 8-page paper to be completed in MLA or APA format. Font must be double-spaced, 12 pt, Times New Roman or Arial.
- Reference Page including a minimum of 6 references two of which can be your textbooks.

Due Date:

The entire paper including the outline, essay, and references is due no later than **December 15th**.

Grading criteria:

Your paper will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Did you cover the topic?
- Did you follow the proper format?
- Did you include the appropriate number of references?

Tentative Nature of the Syllabus:

If necessary, the syllabus and its contents are subject to revision. Students will be held responsible for any changes or modifications distributed in class time, or communicated by an email correspondence, or on Canvas. Usually, all three of these mediums will be employed to communicate any changes.