

Religion 110 (CRN 16300) Instructor: Syed Rizwan Zamir & W. Trent Foley
Spring 2018—11:30, MWF Ofc Eu 104; Ext. 2950 (Zamir) / Ch. 2042; Ext.
2263 (Foley)
Chambers 1027

ALIENS, STRANGERS AND ZOMBIES

“Now,” said she, “I know the cause . . . of your sickness. You have forgotten what you are.”

—Philosophy, the Nurse (Boethius *Consolation of Philosophy* 1.6)

Learning Outcomes

By the end to this course, students will have:

1. Learned various articulations of alienation, some theoretical but especially within popular culture;
2. Discerned and explored alienation as a significant human problem and how it manifests itself in various spheres of human life;
3. Explored whether alienation is a uniquely modern problem;
4. Learned perspectives and methodologies within religious studies to interpret religious and cultural phenomena;
5. Learned to read, carefully interpret, and pose thoughtful questions to texts and visual material;

Required Texts (available at the College Bookstore)

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*

Joseph Epes Brown, *Teaching Spirits: Understanding Native American Religious Traditions*

Werner Kelber, *Mark's Story of Jesus*

[all other texts will be available on Moodle]

Course Requirements

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Class participation | [15% of final grade] |
| 2. Reading review | [10% of final grade] |
| 3. Midterm Review | [25% of final grade] |
| 4. Interpretive Reflection (IR) | [15% of final grade] |
| 5. Final Review | [35% of final grade] |

Grading Scale and Other Notes

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 0-59
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

1. *Meeting with the Instructors:* Trent Foley will be happy to meet with you outside of class, and will try to meet you, whenever possible, on the same day that you make a request. Simply phone or e-mail him with preferable meeting times for you, and he will get back to you, usually within a couple of hours, with a meeting time. To setup a meeting with Prof. Zamir use the following link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4aa8ad2da31-hours>. Every Monday right after class, at a table in Vail Commons, Trent Foley and Prof. Zamir will be eating lunch. It will be nice if you join us, your schedule permitting, of course.
2. *Reading Day Policy:* We are happy to speak with you in private or in small groups about whatever we are studying at any time in the semester *except on Reading Day and during the exam period*. So, any lingering questions about the course material should be addressed to us before Reading Day begins.
3. *Attendance & Participation:* In calculating your discussion grade, we first come up with a grade that reflects how well you participated *when you were present*; we then multiply that number by the percentage of sessions you were present. So, if you were present for 80% of class sessions and did B- work in participation, you would earn a 64% (=80% x 80%) or D on your discussion grade. Each tardy counts as one third of an absence.¹ Thus, it is important for you both to attend class constantly and punctually, and to raise questions and share insights, having carefully read all of the day's assignments. A student who attends all classes, but who says nearly nothing generally earns a 70% as his or her participation grade. You will be allowed two unpenalized absences.
4. *Submitting Assignments:* All assignments must be submitted in two formats: 1) paper format for Prof. Zamir and 2) a Word document uploaded to Moodle for Trent Foley.

¹If you are tardy, at the end of class you must notify us of your belated arrival to ensure that we change your status from "absent" to "tardy" on the attendance record.

5. *Grading:* You will have a principal grader and a secondary grader for each assignment and these roles will be switched from one assignment to the next.

Inclusion

The college welcomes requests for accommodations related to disability and will grant those that are determined to be reasonable and maintain the integrity of a program or curriculum. To make such a request or to begin a conversation about a possible request, please contact the Office of Academic Access and Disability Resources, which is located in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the E.H. Little Library: Beth Bleil, Director, bebleil@davidson.edu, 704-894-2129; or Alysén Beaty, Assistant Director, albeaty@davidson.edu, 704-894-2939. It is best to submit accommodation requests within the drop/add period; however, requests can be made at any time in the semester. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
W, 1/1 7	Introducti on	Introduction	—	
F, 1/1 9	Aliens	Discuss <i>Aliens</i> (1986)	Watch <i>Aliens</i> (1986)—This film will be shown Thursday, 1/18 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be rented on Amazon Video . [Moodle]	
M, 1/2 2	Aliens	Myths and Archetypes in <i>Aliens</i> :	Rushing, Janice Hocker. "Evolution of 'The New Frontier' in Alien and Aliens: Patriarchal Co-optation of the Feminine Archetype." <i>Quarterly Journal of Speech</i> 75.1 (February, 1989): 94-117. [Moodle]	
W, 1/2 4	Aliens	Alienation from the Body (I)	• Lelwica, Michelle Mary. <i>Shameful Bodies: Religion and the Culture of Physical Improvement</i>. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017, 1-16. • Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. "The Wisdom of the Body" (selections). In <i>Religion & the Order of Nature</i>. Oxford and New York: Oxford UP, 1996. 235-239 (Introduction), 252-257 (Islam), 257-262 (Rediscovery & Conclusion). [Moodle]	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 1/2 6	Aliens	Alienation from the Body (II)	Watch <i>Departures</i> (2009)—This film will be shown Thursday, 1/25 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be rented on Amazon Video .	
M, 1/2 9	Aliens	Avoiding Death/Remembering Death	- Hoffner, Eric. "As We Lay Dying: Stephen Jenkinson on How We Deny Our Mortality." <i>The Sun</i>. August, 2015. [Moodle] - Ghazzali, and T J Winter. "Prologue and Chapter 1." In <i>Al-Ghazali on the Remembrance of Death</i>. Cambridge: Islamic Texts Society, 2015 (1-14) [Moodle]	
W, 1/3 1	Aliens	Aliens to Each Other: Teachers and Students (I)	Mark 1:1-4:34; Werner H. Kelber, <i>Mark's Story of Jesus</i> 11-29.	
F, 2/2	Aliens	Aliens to Each Other: Teachers and Students (II)	Mark 4:35-8:21; Werner H. Kelber, <i>Mark's Story of Jesus</i> 30-42.	
M, 2/5	Aliens	Aliens to Each Other: Teachers and Students (III)	Mark 8:22-10:52; Werner H. Kelber, <i>Mark's Story of Jesus</i> 43-56.	
W, 2/7	Aliens	Aliens to Each Other: Teachers and Students (IV)	Mark 11:1-13:37; Werner H. Kelber, <i>Mark's Story of Jesus</i> 57-70.	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 2/9	Aliens	Aliens to Each Other: Teachers and Students (V)	Mark 14:1-16:8; Werner H. Kelber, <i>Mark's Story of Jesus</i> 71-96.	
M, 2/12	Reading Evaluation	What to do with the Religious Alien?	Griffiths, Paul. "The Religious Alien." In <i>The Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity</i> . Edited by Chad V. Meister. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. [Moodle]	*
W, 2/14	Strangers	Mircea Eliade on Sacred Space	Mircea Eliade, <i>The Sacred and the Profane</i> 20-65.	
F, 2/16	Strangers	Native American Traditions on Land	Joseph Epes Brown, <i>Teaching Spirits</i> ix-xxiii and 23-40.	
M, 2/19	Strangers	Land and Pilgrimage	• Watch <i>Inside Mecca</i> by clicking here • Wolfe, Michael. "Malcolm X, United States 1964." In <i>One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing About the Muslim Pilgrimage</i>. New York: Grove P, 1997. 486-503. [Moodle]	
W, 2/21	Strangers	Estrangement from Modernity (I)	Gandhi, Mohatma K. "Chapters 10-14." In <i>Hind Swaraj and Other Writings</i> . Edited by Anthony J Parel. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013. 51-74. [Moodle]	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 2/2 3	Strangers	Fundamentalism : Estrangement from Modernity (I)	Marty, Martin E, and R Scott Appleby. <i>Fundamentalisms Observed</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. Print. Fundamentalism Project 1. Introduction (vii-xiii) and Conclusion (814-833) [Moodle]	
M, 2/2 6	Strangers	Fundamentalism : Estrangement from Modernity (II)	Marty, Martin E, and R Scott Appleby. <i>Fundamentalisms Observed</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. Print. Fundamentalism Project 1. Conclusion (833-42). [Moodle]	
W, 2/2 8	Strangers	American Nationalism	Jewett, Robert. "The Good Guys and the Bad Guys." In <i>The Captain America Complex: The Dilemma of Zealous Nationalism</i> . Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1973. 142-175. [Moodle]	
F, 3/2	Strangers	Religious Nationalism & Partition of India (I)	Watch <i>Earth</i> (1998)—This film will be shown Thursday, 3/1 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be streamed free here .	
Spring Break				

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
M, 3/1 2	Strangers	Religious Nationalism & Partition of India (II)	• Khalique, Harris. "Blood." In <i>Crimson Papers : Reflections on Struggle, Suffering, and Creativity in Pakistan</i>. Karachi: Oxford UP, 2017. 1-28. [Moodle] • Butalia, Urvashi. "Beginnings." In <i>The Other Side of Silence : Voices From the Partition of India</i>. Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press, 2003. 3-20. [Moodle] • <i>Jinnahology: Time, Islam and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi</i>, 264-266. [Moodle].	
W, 3/1 4	Strangers	<i>Bajrangi Bhaijan</i>	Watch <i>Bajrangi Bhaijan</i> (2015)—This film will be shown Tuesday, 3/13 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be streamed if you subscribe to Amazon Prime .	
F, 3/1 6	Study Day	—	Review for Midterm	
M, 3/1 9	Midterm	Midterm	—	*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
W, 3/2 1	Zombies	Colonialism and Race in <i>I Walked with a Zombie</i>	• Watch <i>I Walked with a Zombie</i> (1943)—This film will be shown Tuesday, 3/20 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be rented on Amazon Video or YouTube. • Read Young, Gwenda. “The Cinema of Difference: Jacques Tourneur, Race and ‘I Walked with a Zombie’ (1943).” 7 (1998): 101-119. [Moodle]	
F, 3/2 3	Zombies	Zombies, Race and Culture in 1960s America (I)	Watch <i>Night of the Living Dead</i> (1968). Click here to watch.	
M, 3/2 6	Zombies	Zombies, Race and Culture in 1960s America (II)	Watch <i>Birth of the Living Dead</i> (2013). Click here to watch.	
W, 3/2 8	Zombies	Death, Buddhism, and <i>Night of the Living Dead</i>	Moreman, Christopher M. “A Modern Meditation on Death: Identifying Buddhist Teachings in George A. Romero’s <i>Night of the Living Dead</i> .” <i>Contemporary Buddhism</i> 9, no. 2 (2008): 151-65. [Moodle]	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 3/30	Zombies	Colonialism & Death of History, Culture (I)	- Shayegan, Darius. <i>Cultural Schizophrenia: Islamic Societies Confronting the West</i>. Modern Intellectual and Political History of the Middle East. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse UP, 1997. 3-15. [Moodle] - Deloria, Vine. "Myth and the Origin of Religion." In <i>Spirit & Reason: The Vine Deloria, Jr. Reader</i>. Edited by Samuel Scinta, Kristen Foehner and Barbara Deloria. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Pub., 1999. [Moodle]	
Easter Break				
W, 4/4	Zombies	Colonialism & Death of History, Culture (II)	Nandy, Ashis. "History's Forgotten Doubles." <i>History and Theory</i> 34, no. 2: 44-66. [Moodle]	
F, 4/6	Zombies	Colonialism as the "Zombie"-ization of Culture	Watch <i>Embrace of the Serpent</i> (2015)—This film will be shown Thursday, 4/5 @ 7 p.m. in Chambers 2164; if you cannot make this showing, the DVD will be on reserve in the library. It can also be rented on Amazon Video .	
M, 4/9	Zombies	Relationship and Reciprocity	Joseph Epes Brown, <i>Teaching Spirits</i> , ch. 6.	
W, 4/11	Zombies	Student suggestion for content	TBD	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 4/1 3	Zombies	Student suggestion for content	TBD	
M, 4/1 6	Writing Day	Response Paper	—	*
W, 4/1 8	Time	Busy Time	- Safi, Omid. “The Disease of Being Busy” <i>On Being with Krista Tippett</i>. Blog. https://onbeing.org/blog/the-disease-of-being-busy/ [Moodle] “The Busy Trap” [Moodle]	
F, 4/2 0	Time	Sacred Time	Mircea Eliade, <i>The Sacred and the Profane</i> 68-113.	
M, 4/2 3	Time	American Time	Mead, Sidney E. “The American People: Their Space, Time, and Religion.” In <i>The Lively Experiment: The Shaping of Christianity in America</i> . New York: Harper & Row, 1963. 1-15. [Moodle]	
W, 4/2 5	Time	Native American Time	Joseph Epes Brown, <i>Teaching Spirits</i> 9-21.	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
F, 4/27	Time	Idle Time	Heschel, Abraham Joshua. <i>The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man</i> . New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, 1951. [Moodle]	
M, 4/30	Final Thoughts	Time to Reflect and Wrap Up	Joseph Epes Brown, <i>Teaching Spirits</i> , ch. 7	
W, 5/2	Exam Info	Course Evaluations	—	