

**RELS3700: Topics in Religious Studies**  
Complementary and Alternative Medicine  
Spring 2020

**Mid-Semester Update**  
Effective March, 30th

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**Course Information**

Instructor: Clare van Holm (she/her/hers)  
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CRN: 19868 (online)  
Office Hours: by appointment only, via GoogleChat

**Adjustments to Grade Determination**

Moving forward, each student's grade will be based upon the following:

- Group Discussion - 30%
- Reflection Journal - 25%
- "Choice" Project (***only one project***) - 30%
- Course Reflection (new)***- 15%

**Adjustments to Course Requirements and Due Dates**

**Small Group Discussions**

Small groups assigned at the beginning of the semester will continue to meet for the remainder of the semester.

Any groups that have been meeting in person (rather than virtually) during the first part of the semester are ***strongly encouraged*** to meet using an online conference call platform moving forward. I suggest using Zoom, Skype, or Google Hangouts.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Updated Due Date</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>
Discussion #5	April 12	Mindfulness Meditation and Ayurveda
Discussion #6	April 26	Yoga and Indigenous Healing Systems
Self- & Peer- Evaluation	April 26	End-of-Semester Reflection

**Reflection Journals**

Students will continue to post to their EduBlog Reflection Journals throughout the remainder of the semester. While the posts are technically due by Sundays at the end of the weekly topic,

students are welcome to post their reflections early / in advance. I will do my best to have all the reading prompts for the remainder of the semester posted by March 30.

## Choice Project

The Choice Project assignment will have significant changes, so read the following section **very** carefully.

Project #1's due date (~~originally March 22nd~~), will now be moved to **Sunday, April 5th**.

Project #2 has **been cancelled** in lieu of a reflection paper, detailed in the next section.

Because students are now only submitting one Choice Project, and the due date has been significantly extended, I am going to expect **exceptional quality of work**. This single project is now worth **30% of your total grade**.

For students that have chosen the experiential projects of either "Attending a CAM session" or "Interviewing a CAM Healer", you have two options:

- 1) If you are already in contact with a healer and have set up a time to meet, you may continue with your project, contingent on the following:
  - All participating parties (student, healer, and/or hosts) should feel comfortable moving forward and have a clear, transparent plan for navigating concerns over the spread of COVID-19 / novel coronavirus.
- 2) If for some reason that either party (you or the healer) are uncomfortable with moving forward, OR if you have not yet established contact with a healer, you must pick a new project to complete.

You can choose from the options of an [interactive timeline](#), [a multimedia presentation](#), [curate content](#), or [expand a topic](#).

Given the extended due date, you should have plenty of time to adjust your plans.

## Concluding Reflection

In lieu of a second project, students will write a three (3) page paper (about 750 words) exploring course themes, new perspectives gleaned, and general reflections from the course material.

Details of this Concluding Reflection Paper will be posted by March 30th.

## UPDATED COURSE READING SCHEDULE\*

\*This course syllabus provides a general plan for the semester; it is tentative and changes may be necessary

**March 16 - 29 // Classes cancelled**

**March 30 - April 5**

### **“Protestant” Buddhism and Mindfulness Meditation**

- “When Mindfulness is Therapy: Ethical Qualms, Historical Perspectives”, (pg 621-631) - iCollege
- “Complementary and Alternative Medicine in America’s ‘Two Buddhisms’”, Paul David Numrich, (pg 344-357) - iCollege

**Due by Sunday, April 5**

- ✓ Choice Project due via Individual EduBlog sites

**April 6 - April 12**

### **Ayurveda and Americanized Hinduism**

- "Asian Medicine in America: The Ayurvedic Case". Reddy, S (pg 97-120) - iCollege

**Due by Sunday, April 12**

- ✓ Group Discussion Notes #5 due via iCollege groups

**April 13 - April 19**

### **Yoga and the Healing Marketplace**

- *Selling Yoga*: Chapter 2: “From Counterculture to Counterculture” (pg 20-41) - iCollege
- *Selling Yoga*: Chapter 3: “Continuity with Consumer Culture” (pg 42-72) - iCollege

**April 20 - April 26**

### **Indigenous Healing and Neoshamanism**

- "The New Age Sweat Lodge", William M. Clements, (pg 143-162) - iCollege
- "Native American Medicine: The Implications of History and the Embodiment of Culture", Wendy M. K. Peters, Julli M. Green, and Pilar E. Gauthier (pg 172-195) - iCollege
- “Of Seeds and Shamans: The Appropriations of the Scientific and Technical Knowledge of Indigenous and Local Communities” (pg 1-34) - iCollege

**Due by Sunday, April 26**

- ✓ Group Discussion Notes #6 due via iCollege groups
- ✓ Group Discussion Individual and Peer Reflection (end-of-semester) due via iCollege assignments

**April 28 - May 5 // Finals Week**

**Due by Sunday, May 3**

- ✓ **Course Reflection Paper**