

RELI 107

RELIGION, LAW AND POLITICS



**SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Trimester 2, 2007**

RELI 107

RELIGION, LAW AND POLITICS

Course co-ordinator: *Dr Marion Maddox,*
HU 319, tel: 463 5590

Tutors: *Dan Dowling HU 114, dddd767@yahoo.com*
David Murphy HU 117 david.murphy@vuw.ac.nz

Where and when: *Lectures: HU 323*
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:50am
Tutorials: time and place tba

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliki Kalliabetsos, is in room HU 318. Her telephone number is 463 5299 and email is aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz **Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office.**

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 - 12:00 and 2:30 - 4.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with Dr Maddox by appointment.

Course outline

1 The course aims:
The paper explores the connections between religious values, law and political process.

RELI 107 is the first step in a stream of politics-related papers in religious studies. It is also a useful broadening subject for students intending to major in Law, Politics, Public Policy and related areas.

From the ‘war on terror’ to the rise of ‘family values’ politics, understanding religion is an extremely important part of understanding the modern world. This paper offers information and critical skills which will enable you to draw connections between international events and developments in religious studies and legal and political theory.

The paper uses a mixture of lectures, videos, small-group discussions and guest speakers to make connections between theory and practice.

2 Course objectives are:

i Content objectives

To provide students with the information and critical skills to:

- Identify distinctive religious strands which have shaped the polities of NZ and other western societies
- Account for the different place of religion in the respective political cultures of the societies studied
- Critically interpret current religious or religiously-charged controversies, including (but not restricted to) legal protection of religious freedom; war, peace and violence; and gender and sexual politics.

ii. Academic skills objectives

To foster the ability to:

- Read, summarise and analyse a range of literature in the disciplines of religious studies, law and political science
- Draw connections between the orientations and issues of concern in each discipline
- Critically analyse cutting-edge issues in public life from the perspective of the interrelationship of religion, law and politics
- Write a consistent and coherent argument
- Develop and present a clear verbal argument

iii. Discipline-focused objectives:

- To model an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion, supplementing the approaches modeled in other RELI papers
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge to progress to higher-level RELI papers
- To enable students majoring in other disciplines to bring a sensitivity to religious issues to bear in relevant areas

3 **Rationale for assessment:** The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives.

The weekly quizzes ensure that students read and think about the required readings prior to tutorial discussion. They also give you continuous feedback on your level of understanding and development of the analytical skills required in the essays.

The library assignment provides practical training in the techniques of information retrieval and referencing relevant to this paper, and provides a structure within which students can begin guided work towards the first essay.

The essays allow students to apply their analytical skills to information retrieved through library research on a set topic. Essays demonstrate the students' level of proficiency in finding, understanding, and using sources. They develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for continued study. The process also gives them the opportunity to develop a more in-depth knowledge of an area covered in the lectures and weekly readings.

The test allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the material presented in the course and presents students the opportunity to reflect on their learning process throughout the term.

Students who do not understand the grades they have been assigned or are concerned about their progress are encouraged to meet with their tutors for a discussion.

4 The **lecture programme** follows. Lectures may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, if necessary a revised programme will be issued at lectures.

5 **Tutorials are held weekly** Tutorials deal with topics which complement the lecture programme and they provide an opportunity to discuss aspects of the course in a small group and develop the ability to contribute to discussions. Attendance at 80% of tutorials is mandatory.

The marks for all quizzes you complete will be added up and averaged to calculate the 10% of the overall grade for that component. Missing quizzes will receive 0/10.

6 **The course is internally assessed** by means of one long written paper, eight short quizzes, one library assignment and one class test, as follows:

- **1 library assignment**, as set out below, due on **17 August 2007**, worth **15%** of the final grade
- **1 essay of 2,500 words**, due on **17 September 2007**, worth **40%** of the final grade.
- **8 quizzes** completed at the start of the lecture collectively worth **15%** of the final grade.
- a **class test** worth **30%** of the final grade.

Mandatory Course Requirements The submission of the library assignment, essay, 8 quizzes and the class test. Attendance at a minimum of 80% of tutorials.

7 **Required text:** There is no set textbook. The *RELI 107 Course Reader* should be obtained from the Student Notes shop at a cost of approximately \$30.

- 8 **Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):**
For 100-level 18 points one trimester courses, 12 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 9 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

[100 – level 1 trimester 18 points 12 hours]

- 9 **Aegrotat regulations** apply to internally assessed courses. Students who are ill, or who have difficult personal circumstances may be having problems completing assessment. The aegrotat provisions apply to all courses and apply to assessment which falls within the last three weeks of teaching or the final examination period, including preparation time for final tests and examinations.

Aegrotat provisions are detailed in section 4.5 of the Assessment Statute (2007 Calendar, p. 96) and also on p. 23 of the 2006 Assessment Handbook. Students can refer to the University's website for further information:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/timetables/aegrotat.aspx>.

Application forms and information pamphlets should be obtained from the Faculty Student and Academic Services Office (MY 411) or the Manager, Student & Academic Services (MY 410).

- 10 **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing, together with quotation marks when required.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

11 General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

12 Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

13 Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

14 Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:
telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

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Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contacts are **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact [Manaaki-Pihipihinga Programme@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Manaaki-Pihipihinga_Programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

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Student Learning Support Services: A range of workshops, drop-ins and other assistance is provided by SLSS, covering such things as study techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and note taking skills. They are at 14 Kelburn Parade, tel: 463 5999.

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Taping of Lectures: All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form which advises of copy right and other relevant issues.

- 18** **Class representatives:** Class representatives are elected in the first week or two of term. They are supported by the VUW Students' Association, and have a variety of roles, including assistance with grievances and student feedback to staff and VUWSA. Contact details for your class rep will be available from the Religious Studies Administrator.
- 19** **Supplementary Materials:** A website of materials related to RELI 107 is being maintained in Blackboard. You can find it by visiting <http://blackboard@vuw.ac.nz>. Your user name is the one issued to you by Student Computing Services. Your password is your Student ID Number. If in doubt, please contact the Student Computing Services Help Desk, 463-6666 (extension 6666 from VUW phones) or by email scs-help@vuw.ac.nz
- 20** **Evaluation:** This course will be assessed by **UTDC**

Lecture Programme

UNIT 1	GODS OF NATIONS
10 July	Right, wrong and rules: religion and the law
17 July	God, nation, power: religion and politics
24 July	Religion in three recent elections
31 July	Politics and faith
UNIT 3	GOD, SEX AND THE STATE
7 August	What is a family? 'Family values' politics
14 August	Dearly beloved: Religion, marriage and civil unions

Mid-trimester break 20th August – 2nd September 2007

4 September	Abortion and the politics of birth
UNIT 2	VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED
11 September	Does religion promote violence? Case study 1—Colonial New Zealand
18 September	Does religion promote violence? Case study 2—India
25 September	Does religion promote violence? Case study 3—s. 59
2 October	Can religion reduce violence? Apology and reconciliation
9 October	Class Test

Tutorial Programme

The required readings are essential background for the lectures and tutorials. Weekly readings should be completed **before each lecture**. The readings will be further discussed in the tutorials. The readings are all found in the *RELI 107 Course Reader*, which can be purchased at the Student Notes shop.

UNIT ONE GODS OF NATIONS

9 – 13 July No tutorials are held this week. Tutorial groups will be organised this week.

16– 20 July God, nation, power: religion and politics

Key concepts: Civil Religion; Values; Commitment; Ideology; Convictions; Pragmatism; Conscience; Compromise

Focus: Should leaders use religious language when speaking about public affairs? What are the pluses and minuses of doing so?

23 – 27 July Religion in three recent elections

Key concepts: Double-coding, Dog-Whistle, Priming, Civil Religion, Theocracy, Democracy, Christian Nationalism, Fundamentalism

Focus: In what ways can religion play a role in elections? Is there any reason to worry about any of them?

30 July – 3 August Politics and Faith

Key Concepts: Faith; Separation of Church and State; Conscience Vote; Moral Issue

Focus: How relevant is a politician's religious faith to their public life? In what different ways might faith and politics interact?

UNIT TWO GOD, SEX AND THE STATE

6 – 10 August What is a family? 'Family values' politics

Key Concepts: Family; Nuclear Family; 'Family Values'; Liberalism; Conservatism; Feminism; State Intervention

Focus: How do you account for the recent rise of 'family values' politics? Why do politicians find 'the family' such an attractive concept, and how do religious messages contribute to its political success?

13 – 17 August Dearly beloved: Religion, marriage and civil unions

Key Concepts: Marriage; Family; Citizenship; Equality

Focus: Has marriage historically meant only relationships between one man and one woman? What kinds of discrimination have non-heterosexual couples experienced? Does New Zealand's *Civil Unions Bill* go too far, not far enough, or get things about right?

Mid-trimester break 20th August – 2nd September 2007

4 September Abortion and the politics of birth

Key Concepts: Conception; Viability; Quickening; Pro-Life; Pro-Choice

Focus: Why do ideas about the morality of abortion change? Why does it attract so much attention in some religious traditions, and not in others?

UNIT THREE DOES RELIGION PROMOTE VIOLENCE?

10 – 14 September Case Study 1: Colonial New Zealand

Key Concepts: Indigenous Religion; Evangelism; Colonisation; Resistance; Prophecy; Millenarianism

Focus: In the history of New Zealand, was religion more a force for colonisation or a means of resistance to it?

17 - 21 September Does religion promote violence? Case Study 2—India

Key Concepts: Secularism; Communalism; Minorities

Focus: What can the Indian case teach us about the relationship between religion and nationalism? Should a nation use religious language to describe its history, present commitments and sense of destiny? What are the advantages and/or problems of doing so?

24 – 28 September Revision for class test

1 – 5 October Can religion reduce violence? Apology and reconciliation

Key concepts: Responsibility; Justice; Reconciliation; Apology; Reparation

Focus: Is it reasonable for the present generation to apologise for the wrongs of the past?

Essays

The essay should be a thoughtful treatment of a well-defined topic, based on your own thinking and research.

Topic

1. Should practices which are normally illegal be allowed when they are being done for religious reasons? Illustrate your argument with examples.
2. How important is religion in current New Zealand politics?
3. Does the public have a right to know a political candidate's religious beliefs?
4. 'Bringing religion into political debate debases both' Discuss, with reference to one issue you have studied in RELI 107.
5. Critically analyse the role of religion in one of the conflict situations you have studied in RELI 107.
6. 'Sexuality is a private matter and neither church nor state should try to regulate it'. Discuss, using specific examples.
7. Are intergenerational and post-war apologies merely a fashion, or do they represent something deeper?

The required readings may be used as sources for the essays, but **you must consult at least three other sources**. Once you have completed the library assignment, you will be well on the way with your research for the first essay. Additional reading suggestions will be given in lectures.

Encyclopedias such as *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York, N.Y.: Macmillan, 1987) in the Reference Reading Room in the library can be helpful as each article also contains a bibliography, but **the research for the essay must extend beyond such sources**.

Submission of essays and assignments

You must submit two copies of each essay: one hard copy and one electronic copy. Hard copies must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the programme administrator's office (HU 318) and students must date and sign the essay register when submitting an essay. Electronic copies must be submitted via Blackboard, in either Word (.doc) or Rich Text (.rtf) format and named with your student ID number. **Essays submitted in only one form will be returned unmarked.** No responsibility will be taken for assignments pushed under doors or otherwise submitted in ways for which there is no record. Keep a copy of all work until it is returned.

Due dates:

- the library assignment is to be submitted by **17 August 2007**
- the essay to be submitted by **17 September 2007**
- quizzes are to be completed in the lecture each

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 1 percent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
- essays submitted more than two weeks late will not be accepted for assessment unless prior written arrangement has been made with the lecturer.
- essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.