FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 108 THE World's Religions

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014
Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014
Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014
Study week: 20–24 October 2014
Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Friday 11:00 – 12:50; HM 205
Tutorials: tba

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Radich
                    HU 216, 463 9477, michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz
Administrator: Aliki Kalliabetsos
                    HU 318, 463 5299, aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliki Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

Tutorials are administered through S-Cubed. Students should enrol on line. Tutorial lists shall be posted on the Programme notice board in the third week of the trimester.

Prescription

This course introduces students to the major religious traditions, the relationships between them, and analysis of the role of religion in the contemporary world. Themes will include: religion and terrorism after 9/11, globalisation and religion, religion and identity, religion and the brain, religion and science, and the future of religion.

Course content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write about religion, and issues in the formal study of religion, in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner. The course uses a mixture of lectures and small-group discussions to make connections between theory and lived religious experience. The course also aims to improve students' skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and communication.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. engage with significant features of a range of religious traditions, and demonstrate knowledge of the range, variety and complexity of religions worldwide;
2. approach the study of religion, and various religious phenomena, in a critical manner, based upon evaluation of primary evidence and scholarly resources;
3. understand the study of religion as a critical discipline, that is, to examine the political, economic, social, historical, conceptual and cultural dimensions of religious activity;
4. make and defend arguments in a manner that demonstrates key research and writing skills, and critical awareness.

Teaching format

This course is designed as an integral combination of lectures, readings, tutorials, and assigned work. These components are complementary with one another, not redundant; and ALL components of the course are necessary for students to do well. It is thus recommended in the strongest possible terms that students do the reading, attend all lectures and tutorials, and keep up with the required work for the course. Please see Appendix A for the Lecture Schedule, the tutorial timetable and details relating to the assessment for this course.

Tutorials deal with topics which complement the lecture programme. They provide an opportunity to discuss aspects of the course in a small group and develop the ability to contribute to discussions. This is an important part of the apparatus the course uses to develop students' skills in critical thinking and communication.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1.   submit all the required work for assessment (reading assignments, quizzes, essays, test), and
2.   attend at least 80% of tutorials.

Workload

For 20 point courses, a student should spend on average 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time should be approximately 200 hours.

Assessment

	RELI 108 Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 essay of 1,500 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	August 22 2014
2	1 essay of 1,500 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	October 3 2014
3	3 online quizzes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 9 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	July 25 2014 August 8 2014 Sept 12 2014
4	3 reading response assignments of one side of A4 (Recommended average time spent on this task: 21 hours)	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	August 1 2014 August 15 2014 Sept 19 2014
5	1 in-class final test of 110 minutes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	October 17 2014

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the **assignment box** outside the Religious Studies office (HU 318). Please make sure you sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when. Essays are **also** to be **submitted electronically, via Blackboard**, in part so that student work can be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn. DO NOT EMAIL YOUR ESSAYS TO THE LECTURER OR TUTOR. **No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record.** Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. Marked assignments may collected from the Religious Studies office 2 weeks from the date of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question.

Penalties

- 2 percent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

Set texts

There is no set textbook. All readings for this course will be made available on Blackboard, or through the library catalogue or online sources via links on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Please see appendix A for a full reading list for this course.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This course will be evaluated by **CAD**.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz