



**Office Hours:** You can arrange to meet with Dr Weiss by appointment, and he will also answer all emails promptly.

## **Prescription**

This course examines religion as a locus of personal and social identity, inquiring into the force of religion in uniting and dividing communities in our modern world. The course is comparative, reflecting broadly on the ways that religion has served both to bring people together into harmonious societies, but also to antagonise groups in often violent ways. Specific case studies will serve as data for analysis. Topics that the course will cover include cultural encounters, gender and community, religious conflict, and nationalism and religion.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. understand and communicate ways that religious identities are forged, maintained, and defended around the world.
2. critically and creatively engage with scholarly literature on religious communities and identities.
3. analyse real-world data about religious communities using a variety of scholarly frameworks.
4. demonstrate academic autonomy, that is, the capability to develop frameworks for the undertaking of research and the confident presentation of findings.

## **Teaching format**

The course uses a mixture of lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate both content and ideas, that is, historical and doctrinal materials, as well as relevant theories. The tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures. It is essential that students attend lectures and tutorials, as the lecturer and tutor use these to introduce material that is not contained in the readings.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

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

- attend at least **seven tutorials**,

## **Workload**

For 20 point one trimester courses a student should, on average, spend 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

| Assessment items and workload per item |  | %   | CLOs          | Due date                 |
|--|--|-----|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1                                      | One review essay of approximately 1,500 words Recommended<br>average time spent on this task: 40 hours   | 25% | 1, 2          | 22.08.2014               |
| 2                                      | One research essay of approximately 3,000 words Recommended<br>average time spent on this task: 60 hours | 35% | 1, 2, 3,<br>4 | 17.10.2014               |
| 3                                      | 5 tutorial assignments of 400-500 words each<br>Recommended average time spent on this task: 24 hours    | 15% | 1, 2          | In relevant<br>tutorials |
| 4                                      | One in-class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes)<br>Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours | 25% | 1, 2, 3       | 14.10.2014               |

## Marking criteria

Please note that essays will be marked according to the following **rubrics**:

- (1) Argument: Does the writer establish a clearly stated, persuasive *argument* that is *supported* by evidence and sub-arguments? Does it reflect sophisticated engagement with readings using skills developed in class?
- (2) Writing Style and Clarity: Is the writing lucid, cogent, and grammatically correct? Does it show evidence of revision and attention to detail?
- (3) Technical requirements: Does the essay conform to the assignment, with the appropriate word-count and correct citation format? Please see the "Appendix to Course Outline" for more specific information about writing assignments and requirements.

## Submission and return of work

**Essays are to be submitted in two ways, both of which are mandatory to receive credit for the essay:**

**First**, students must submit a paper copy of the essay to the assignment box outside the Religious Studies office (**HU 318**). Please make sure you sign and date the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when.

**Second**, students **must submit an electronic copy** via Blackboard. These electronic copies will be submitted to Turnitin, an electronic plagiarism database, to check for possible plagiarism.

Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned.

Marked assignments may be collected from the Religious Studies office, HU 318, two weeks after their 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

Late essays will be marked down 2% points for every day they are submitted after the due date, *including* holidays and weekend days. Extensions may be given in cases of medical necessity, with presentation of a note from a medical provider. Extensions must be discussed with one's tutor at least 48 hours before the assignment due date.

### Set texts

A reader for this course may be purchased at Vicbooks, situated in the Hub at the Kelburn campus:  
[www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz).

### 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

Student feedback on University courses may be found at  
[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)

- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)