

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 108

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

TRIMESTER 3 2014



SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 17 November 2014 to 21 December 2014

Teaching dates: 17 November – 19 December 2014

Last assessment item due: 18 December 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: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30
Location: HMLT 103
Tutorials: Times and location tba

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Michael Radich michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz HU 215 Hunter Building
Hanlie Booysen hanlie.booysen@vuw.ac.nz HU 219 Hunter Building

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318 (463 5299), aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. 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.

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 Appendices 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);
2. attend at least 4 out of 5 tutorials.

Workload

200 hours across a trimester for a 20 point course.

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 | Friday 28.11.2014 |
| 2 | 1 essay of 1,500 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours) | 25% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Friday 12.12.2014 |
| 3 | 3 online quizzes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 9 hours) | 10% | 1, 2, 3 | 20.11.2014 27.11.2014 4.12.2014 |
| 4 | 3 reading response assignments of one side of A4 (Recommended average time spent on this task: 21 hours) | 15% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 25.11.2014 2.12.2014 9.12.2014 |
| 5 | 1 in-class final test of 110 minutes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours) | 25% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Thursday 18.12.2014 |

Submission of work

The essays are to be submitted in two ways, electronically to Blackboard, and a hard copy to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, HU 318.

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

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 2 per cent 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 or other appropriate certification
- each late quiz and reading assignment will be penalised 3/10.

Set texts

There are no set texts for this course. All readings are available on Blackboard

Recommended reading

Please see the lecture schedule 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 shall 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-progress (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