

Religious Studies

RELI 227 / RELI 310

Special Topic: Rasta, Vodou and Santeria: Religions of Africa and the Caribbean

TRIMESTER 3 2014



School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



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Special Topic: Rasta, Vodou and Santeria: Religions of Africa and the Caribbean

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2014

Important dates

Teaching dates: 17 November to 19 December 2014

Last assessment item due: 21 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: Mondays and Wednesdays	17:30 – 19:20
Location:	HMLT 002 (Hugh Mackenzie)
Tutorials: Thursdays and Fridays	Times and rooms tba

Names and contact details

Course Coordinators:

Comfort Max-Wirth comfort.max-wirth@vuw.ac.nz HU 219 (Hunter Building)

Dorcas Dennis dorcas.dennis@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.

Office Hours

The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with Comfort Max-Wirth or Dorcas Dennis by appointment, and they will answer all emails within 48 hours.

Course Prescription

This course introduces students to the historical foundations, beliefs and practices of Rastafarianism, Vodou, Santeria and religious traditions of Africa. Themes include the history and development of these traditions, their ritual expressions in Africa and the diaspora, and their concepts of health, healing and divination.

Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 227

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the content of African religious traditions, important for developing 'religious literacy' in our globalizing world
2. communicate interpretations of primary data – historical, textual, ethnographic, etc. – that demonstrate an understanding of, and sensitivity towards religious contexts and traditions
3. evaluate scholarly arguments about African religions, advancing a critical perspective
4. demonstrate skills in research and in the presentation of findings.

Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 310

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate detailed knowledge of the content of African religious traditions, important for developing 'religious literacy' in our globalizing world
2. communicate interpretations of primary data – historical, textual, ethnographic, etc. – that demonstrate an understanding of, and sensitivity towards, complex religious contexts and traditions
3. evaluate scholarly arguments about African religions, advancing a critical and independent perspective
4. demonstrate skills in in-depth research and in the presentation of findings.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials, and includes readings 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. **The lecture programme** is described in the "Appendix to the Course Outline." Lectures may be changed from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least 70% of tutorials
2. submit each piece of assessment
3. sit the class test.

Workload

200 hours across the trimester for a 20 point course.

Assessment

RELI 227 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Three (3) reading responses of approximately 750 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 24 hours)	35%	1, 2	24.11.2014 1.12.2014 8.12.2014
2	One (1) Research Essay of approximately 2,000 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 60 hours)	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	21.12.2014
3	In-class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes) Recommended average time spent on this task: 60 hours	25%	1, 2, 3	17.12.2014

RELI 310 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Three (3) reading responses of approximately 1,000 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 24 hours)	35%	1, 2	24.11.2014 1.12.2014 8.12.2014
2	One (1) Research Essay of approximately 3,000 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 70 hours)	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	21.12.2014
3	In-class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes) Recommended average time spent on this task: 60 hours	25%	1, 2, 3	17.12.2014

Submission and return of work

The three reading response essays and one Research essay must be submitted in two ways, electronically to Blackboard. Reading responses shall be returned marked to students within 2 weeks of submission, and no later than 19th December.

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.

Due dates/Penalties

Unexcused late essays will be subject to a penalty of 2% per day late. Students who anticipate their work might be late due to legitimate extenuating circumstances should communicate to the course coordinators or tutor as early as possible.

The **very final deadline** for submission of all essays is **Sunday, December 21, 2014**. No work can be accepted after this, as for the purposes of this course, the trimester ends on this date.

Set texts

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

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