

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies
Religious Studies

RELI 221

**RELIGION, POLITICS AND
DISENCHANTMENT**

20 Points

Trimester 1 2014

IMPORTANT DATES:

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014
Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014
Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 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: Thursday 15:10 – 17:00, MY 220
Tutorials: Friday 10:00 – 10:50, MY 105
Friday 11:00 – 11:50, MY 105

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Course coordinator: Dr Geoff Troughton
HU 319; 463 5590
geoff.troughton@vuw.ac.nz
Programme administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsos
HU 318; 463 5299
aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside HU318. Notices will also be communicated to students via announcements and email on Blackboard.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION:

This course examines the relationship between people's nations and their gods. Focusing on hotly contested notions of secularism and secularisation, and the social, political and religious implications of these ideas. It considers whether religiously plural societies are less tolerant; why religious differences sometimes become violent and the meanings and significance of religion-state separation.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate differences in theoretical perspectives concerning the meaning and process of secularisation;
2. Outline a range of distinctive religious responses to the conditions posed by modern secular societies;
3. Read, analyse and assess the quality of source materials;
4. Demonstrate critical thinking, and skills relevant for academic research and presentation.

TEACHING FORMAT:

This course shall be taught by means of one two-hour lecture per week and 9 tutorial sessions scheduled throughout the trimester.

The lectures communicate historical, theoretical and doctrinal materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures. There will be **9 tutorial sessions** through the trimester. Please check the timetable later in this course outline to determine the relevant weeks. You are expected to attend tutorials.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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

1. Attend a minimum of 7 tutorials
2. Submit the two essays
3. Sit the class test

WORKLOAD:

For 20 points one trimester courses, 200 hours across the trimester are recommended. An average student should spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

ASSESSMENT:

The course is internally assessed by means of written assignments, weighted as follows:

- An essay of a maximum of 2000 words, to be submitted by 5:00 pm **Friday 11 April**, worth **30%** of the final grade [CLOs 1, 3, 4]. *Recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hours;*
- An essay of a maximum of 2000 words, to be submitted by 5:00pm **Friday 30 May**, worth **30%** of the final grade [CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4]. *Recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hours;*
- 7 short multi-choice quizzes, based on the compulsory readings, worth **15%** of the final grade, to be held in lecture time (see Lecture Programme for details) [CLOs 1, 4]. *Recommended average time spent on this task: 24 hours;*
- A class test to be held in the regular class room at the usual lecture time on **Thursday 5 June**, worth **25%** of the final grade [CLOs 1, 2, 4]. *Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours.*

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK:

Essays must be submitted both electronically, via Blackboard, and in hard copy to the Religious Studies programme office, HU 318. Marks will be posted on Blackboard. Marked copies of your essays will be available to pick up from HU 318 approximately two weeks from submission.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES:

A penalty of 2% per 24 hours may be deducted for essays and assignments submitted late, without an extension. If students require an extension, this should be arranged with Dr Troughton prior to the relevant deadline. Essays submitted late due to medical or personal reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a certificate from a doctor or other professional

SET TEXTS:

There is no set textbook or reader for RELI 221. All course readings, including a range of supplementary and recommended material, will be available on Blackboard. Additional recommendations will be offered in lectures.

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 or second lecture of the course. Contact details for your class rep will be listed on the Religious Studies notice board. You can find more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA webpage

STUDENT FEEDBACK:

Student evaluations of this course shall be administered through 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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz