

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Art History, Classics and Religious Studies*

## **Religious Studies**

### **RELI 286 Mysticism, Spiritual Maps and Reality and Special Topic RELI 327 Mysticism, Spiritual Maps and Reality**

**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

**Study week:** 9 – 13 June 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 13 June to 2 July 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

#### **Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** Tuesday 3:10 – 5:00 MY 220

**Tutorials:** TBA Tutorial times and lists are administered through S-Cubed. Students should enrol in a tutorial as soon as possible from the start of the trimester. Tutorials start in the second week of the trimester.

#### **Names and contact details**

**Course co-ordinator:** **Dr Art Buehler,**  
HU 116, tel: 463 7409  
[art.buehler@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:art.buehler@vuw.ac.nz)

**Tutor:** **Benno Blaschke**  
HU 217 [benno.blaschke@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:benno.blaschke@vuw.ac.nz)

**Course Administrator:** **Aliki Kalliabetsos**  
HU 318, tel: 463 5299  
[aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz)

## Communication of additional information

The programme Administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room HU 318 (ext 5299). Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on Blackboard and also on the notice board outside the administrator's office.

**Office Hours:** The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30am – 12 noon and 2:30 - 3.30pm. You can arrange to meet with Art Buehler by appointment.

## Prescription

This course is an introduction to ways of investigating and conceptualising mystical experience, utilising methodologies from transpersonal psychology, philosophy, and contemplative practitioners themselves. Other topics include the problematics/necessity of spiritual teachers, shamanism, the problematics of post-rational experience in religious traditions and the debates involved in the interpretation of such experiences.

## Course content

Please see Appendix One to this document.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 286

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Appreciate the diversity of mystical experience across cultures and religious traditions.
2. Develop key skills in reading texts – both in terms of concepts but also cultural factors.
3. Analyse subjective mystical experience using various methodologies.
4. Have exposure to various models of spiritual development for comparative analysis.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how mysticism has a place in the contemporary world and the relationship between mysticism and religion.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 327

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Appreciate the diversity of mystical experience across cultures and religious traditions, in addition to seeing common elements.
2. Develop close reading skills in reading texts – in terms of concepts but also cultural factors with analytical depth.
3. Analyse subjective mystical experience using various methodologies.
4. Have exposure to various models of spiritual development for comparative analysis.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how mysticism has a place in the contemporary world and the relationship between mysticism and religion.

## Teaching format

This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials. The lecture programme introduces new material that incorporates and complements the reading assignment. Generally students will be provided with an outline of the lecture at the beginning of each lecture. This is to encourage thinking and interaction during the lecture instead of writing copious notes and tuning out. The lecture programme does not cover the entire course content; lectures are complementary to the students' reading and to tutorial discussions. Tutorials are an opportunity for discussion and fuller participation in their learning experience. Students are expected to attend each tutorial. In cases of justified absence, satisfactorily written assignments (750 words per tutorial) or other alternative projects related to the material (film reviews) will substitute for attendance.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit both essays
2. submit the final take-home test
3. attend 6 tutorials

**NB: Please remember that although tutorial assignments are not required to pass they are 25% of the grade.**

## 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 286 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 Essay of approximately 2000 words due 28.03.14 <i>Recommended time spent on this task: 32 hours</i>	20%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	28.03.2014
2	1 Essay of approximately 2500 words due 16.05.14 <i>Recommended time spent on this task: 40 hours</i>	25%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	16.05.2014
3	10 Tutorial assignments due at tutorials <i>Recommended time spent on this task: 40 hours</i>	25%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	at tutorials
4	1 Take-home test (distributed 04.03.2014) <i>Recommended time spent on this task:52 hours</i>	30%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	30.05.2014

RELI 327 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 Essay of approximately 2500 words <i>Recommended time spent on this task:32 hours</i>	20%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	28.03.14
2	1 Essay of approximately 3000 words <i>Recommended time spent on this task:40 hours</i>	25%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	16.05.14
3	10 Tutorial assignments due at tutorials <i>Recommended time spent on this task:40 hours</i>	25%	1, 2, 3, 4,5	at tutorials
4	1 Take-home test (distributed 04.03.2014) <i>Recommended time spent on this task:52 hours</i>	30 %	1, 2, 3, 4,5	30.05.2014

## **The assessment of this course relates to the course objectives in the following ways:**

The tutorial assignments are to be short (250 words ideally, maximum 500 words) written responses to the current week's required readings and lectures. They ensure that students read and think about the required readings prior to tutorial discussion. They also provide continuous feedback to students on their level of understanding and their development of the analytical skills required in the essays. They are due in the relevant tutorial. Tutorial assignments are not mandatory but not doing them reduces one's grade by at least one entire grade.

**The essays** will encourage students to pursue their own interests in the subject through formulating their own research question(s) in an exploration of primary and secondary sources. In the essays, students will be exposed first-hand to the issues raised in scholarly analysis and will develop the knowledge and the skills necessary to critically evaluate scholarly studies of materials they have studied for themselves.

**The takehome test** allows students to demonstrate their grasp of the material covered in the course and their understanding of the themes addressed, and creates an opportunity to review and reflect on what they have learned in the course as a whole.

## **Submission and return of work**

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. Both are mandatory. Students should keep a copy of any work submitted until the marked original is returned. Assessed work shall be returned marked to students within 2 weeks of submission.

## **Extensions and 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 with the course coordinator or tutor as early as possible.

## **Set texts**

The Course Reader may be purchased from VicBooks, from the start of the trimester.

## **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](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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- 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)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)