

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 422 ADVANCED STUDIES IN RELIGION AND POLITICS

30 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
Last assessment date:	27 June 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

Tuesdays 13:10 – 16:00 HU 320

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator Dr Geoff Troughton HU 319 463 5590
geoff.troughton@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room HU 318 (463 5299, aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz). Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the Department Notice Board adjacent to her office.

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday – Friday, 9.30 am – 12:00 noon, and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with the course co-ordinator by appointment.

Prescription

This course examines textual, theological and practical resources that religious believers use to inform their engagement with political and public issues. Contemporary issues are evaluated against the backdrop of historical debates concerning interactions of religion and politics. Case studies exemplify approaches to political thought and activism used within different traditions.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify and analyse one issue in which religion and politics intersect
2. Identify and analyse important religious ideas and dynamics relevant to the issue under consideration
3. Demonstrate the ability to construct a coherent, well-written, evidence-based argument with respect to an issue in religion and politics.
4. Demonstrate the ability to verbally communicate the findings and significance of research undertaken with respect to an issue in religion and politics.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through regular seminars. The seminar programme may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, a revised programme will be issued.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit one essay proposal and annotated bibliography
2. Submit one essay
3. Give one seminar presentation

Workload

The total expected workload for this course is 300 hours spread evenly over the trimester.

Assessment

Assessment for the whole course is by means of two written assignments, and one oral presentation.

1. One research essay proposal and annotated bibliography of 2,500 words, on a topic to be negotiated with Dr Troughton, worth **20%** of the total course grade: to be submitted by **Friday 11 April**.
 - a. Students must notify Dr Troughton of their intended topic by **Monday 17 March**.
2. One **research essay** of a maximum of 6,000 words, worth **70%** of the total course grade; to be submitted by **Friday 27 June**.
 - a. Students must submit full drafts of their essays by
3. A 30-minute in-class **seminar**, based on the student's research essay, worth **10%** of the total course grade. Times to be arranged in class, prior to 16th May 2014

Specific guidelines for each assessment will be distributed in class.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)
1	One 2,500-word proposal and annotated bibliography due 11.04.2014 <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 55 hours</i>	20%	1, 2, 3
2	One 6,000-word research essay due 27.06.2014 <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 185 hours</i>	70%	1, 2, 3
3	One 30-minute in-class presentation, date to be agreed <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 25 hours</i>	10%	4

Rationale for assessment

The essay allows students to apply their analytical skills to information retrieved through library research on a set topic. Essays demonstrate the students' level of proficiency in finding, understanding, and using sources. They develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for continued study in the area. The process also gives the opportunity to develop more in-depth knowledge of an area covered and the skills of critical analysis. The seminar presentations allow students to develop their skills in small group teaching and discussion.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted by email to Dr Troughton AND to the essay box outside the Programme Office, HU 318. Marked work shall be returned by Dr Troughton at seminars. Feedback shall be given regularly throughout the trimester.

Set texts

There is no set textbook for both parts of the course. Readings shall be available via Blackboard or copies may be provided by the Religious Studies Programme at a student's request at cost.

Recommended reading

See schedule in Appendix A for course readings

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/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