

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Religious Studies

RELI 424 Advanced Studies in Religion and Society

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

Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00, HU 320

Names and contact details

Professor Paul Morris HU 316 4635037 paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Additional information on changes will be conveyed to students, via Blackboard and postings on the Religious Studies notice board outside HU 316.

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 relationships between religions and societies through a combination of theoretical models and case studies. The latter will address the social location and functions of religious communities, and religious interactions with social institutions, in selected classical and contemporary societies. Concerns include issues of diversity, power, authority and law.

Course content

This part of the course focuses on the management of religious diversity by state, religious and other actors. Starting with a theoretical introduction to religion and the nation-state, different polities will be examined in terms of their management of religion. A number of sites will be explored including: religion in the public sphere; politics; education; work; moral issues; and, the ways in which religious communities engage with political and public issues in society.

The course aims to introduce students to a variety of scholarly perspectives on the management of religious diversity and the different models that have developed in different contexts. Students will undertake research on selected aspects of the issues raised by religious diversity in contemporary societies or in selected historical settings.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate the knowledge and critical skills to analyse the realities and rhetoric of different religious diversity management models and to evaluate the merits and short comings of different systems.
- 2) Demonstrate critical academic appreciation of the scholarly literature in the area.
- 3) Demonstrate research skills in planning, researching, and presenting research.
- 4) Demonstrate oral and written communication and presentation.

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 research proposal and draft bibliography,
2. give one seminar presentation
3. submit one essay

Workload

Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):

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

Assessment

Assessment for the course is by means of a written research proposal, a written assignment of 5000 words, and one in-class presentation.

Assessment

Research proposal/draft bibliography	10%
Presentation	20%
5000-word research essay	70%

Assessment and deadlines are as follows:

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal no more than 1,500 words and draft bibliography <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 25 hours</i>	10%	1, 2, 3	11.4.14
2	One presentation, during designated class time, prior to 16 May 2014, <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 55 hours</i>	20%	1,2,3,4	
3	One essay of a maximum of 5,000 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task: 180 hours</i>	70%	1,2,3,4	27.6.14

i Research proposal and draft bibliography, due **Friday April 11, 2014**, worth 10%.

ii One presentation, during designated class time, prior to May 16th, worth 20%.

iii One **essay** of a maximum of 5,000 words, to be submitted by **Friday June 27, 2014**, worth 70%

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 Professor Morris AND to the essay box outside the Programme Office, HU 318. Marked work shall be returned by Professor Morris 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.

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

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