

**RELI 422**

**ADVANCED STUDIES  
IN RELIGION AND POLITICS**



**SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON**

**RELI 422**

# RELI 422

## ADVANCED STUDIES IN RELIGION AND POLITICS:

**Course co-ordinators:** *Dr Chris Marshall*  
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*Dr Geoff Troughton*  
*Hunter 319*  
*Tel: 463 5590*  
*Email [geoff.troughton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoff.troughton@vuw.ac.nz)*

**Where and when:** *Mondays 11 am – 1 pm*  
*Hunter 113*

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Alik Kalliabetos, is in room 318 (ext 5299). 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 – 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with the class co-ordinators during office hours or by appointment.

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### *Course Outline*

1. This paper explores how the concept of justice functions in Christian thought, and how religiously-informed conceptions of justice and rights have contributed to the political institutions and assumptions of Western secular (post-Christian) societies.
2. **Course objectives:**
  - i. to familiarise students with the development of biblical and Christian ideas of justice and politics;
  - ii. to explore specific case studies that illustrate the relationship between religious ideas and social change;
  - iii. to develop skills of academic research and writing at Honours level with respect to the issues covered in the paper.

- 3 **Seminar programme (see below).** The programme may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, if necessary, a revised programme will be issued.
4. **Assessment** is by means of two written assignments and a class presentation:
- i. an **essay** of a maximum of 5,000 words, on a topic to be negotiated with Dr Marshall; the final draft is to be submitted by **Friday 27 June 2008**.
  - ii. an **essay** of a maximum of 5,000 words, on a topic to be negotiated with Dr Troughton; the final draft is to be submitted by **Friday, 10 October 2008**.
  - iii. two seminar presentations, as scheduled.
5. **Required text:** There is no set textbook for both parts of the course. Readings will be supplied at cost, and some key books will be available for purchase for those who want them.
6. **General University statutes and policies:** Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the VUW homepage at:  
[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)  
Information on the following topics is available electronically at:  
[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/downloads/course\\_outlines\\_general\\_information.pdf](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/downloads/course_outlines_general_information.pdf)
- Academic Grievances
  - Student and Staff Conduct
  - Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
  - Student Support
7. **Academic grievances:** If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances)
8. **Student and staff conduct:** The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under

the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct)

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct)

9. ***Students with Impairments*** (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building telephone: 463-6070, email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz) The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.
  
10. ***Student Support:*** Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contacts are **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

***Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme:*** This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact [Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; [Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

**Student Services:** In addition, the Student Services Group (email: [student-services@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-services@vuw.ac.nz)) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/)

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at [education@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:education@vuwsa.org.nz)) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

11. **Taping of Lectures:** All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form which advises of copy right and other relevant issues.
12. **Use of Turnitin:** Student work provided for assessment in this course *may be* checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. **At the discretion of the School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.** You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.
13. **Class representatives:** Class representatives are elected in the first week or two of the term. They are supported by the VUW Students' Association, and have a variety of roles, including assistance with grievances and student feedback to staff and VUWSA. Contact details for your class rep will be listed on the Religious Studies notice board.
14. **Aegrotat regulations** apply to internally assessed courses. Students who are ill, or who have difficult personal circumstances may be having problems completing assessment. The aegrotat provisions apply to all courses and apply to assessment which falls within the last three weeks of teaching or the final examination period, including preparation time for final tests and examinations. Aegrotat provisions are detailed in section 4.5 of the Assessment Statute (*2008 Calendar*, p. 101) and also on p. 23 of the *2006 Assessment Handbook*. Students can refer to the University's website for further information: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/timetables/aegrotat.aspx>.

Application forms and information pamphlets should be obtained from the Faculty Student and Academic Services Office (MY 411) or the Manager, Student & Academic Services (MY 410).

15. **Student Learning Support Services:** A range of workshops, drop-ins and other assistance is provided by SLSS, covering such things as study techniques, essay

writing, exam preparation and note taking skills. They are at 14 Kelburn Parade,  
tel: 463 5999

16. ***Evaluation:*** This course will be evaluated by **UTDC**.

## ***Essays and Assignments***

1. Essays and assignments must be placed in the locked assignment box located outside the programme administrator's door, and students must date and sign the essay register to indicate submission. No responsibility will be taken for assignments left in the 'Late Essay' box, pushed under doors, or for which there is no record. Students who leave their essays in the late box are responsible for signing the record themselves. Students should keep a copy of all work until it is returned
2. **Due dates:**  
Final draft of the first essay is to be submitted by **Friday 27 June 2008**.  
Final draft of the second essay is to be submitted by **Friday 10 October 2008**
3. **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times. Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

*Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.*

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

*To find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html).*

4. For guidance in essay writing and presentation of bibliographies, please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays.

# *Seminar Programme*

## Unit One:

### **The Justice of God in the Bible and Human Politics**

#### **Week 1 (29 Feb): Meeting with All Honours' Students**

*General honours meeting, 29 February*

#### **Week 2 (3 March): Introduction to Course & Seminar Allocation**

Rowan Williams

#### **Week 3 (10 March): Method in Christian Ethics**

Marshall, Chris

Hays, Richard

#### **Week 4 (17 March): Religious Voices in the Public Square after Christendom**

Marshall, Chris

Boston, Jonathan

Kreider

Jonathan Chaplin

*Additional Resources:*

Forrester, Duncan

Gascoigne, Robert

Barack Obama

### **EASTER BREAK (21-25 MARCH)**

#### **Week 5: (24 March): No class, Easter Monday**

#### **Week 6 (31 March): Justice and Love**

Marshall, Chris

Stassen, Glen H & David P.

Boston, Jonathan



**Week 7 (7 April): Human Rights, The Bible and Society**      *[Class presentation]*

Marshall, Chris

Ahdar, Rex J

Gascoigne, Robert

**MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 12 – 27 APRIL**

**Week 8 (28 April): Justice, Violence and the Politics of Forgiveness**

Marshall, Chris

Shriver, Donald

**Week 9 (5 May): Restorative Justice: Theology, Theory & Practice**

Zehr, Howard

Marshall, Chris

Snyder, Richard

**Week 10 (12 May): Restorative Justice: Case Studies**      *[Class presentation]*

Marshall, Chris

**Week 11 (19 May): Right Religion in American Public Life: Dan Dowling**  
*[Class presentation]*

Charles Marsh

**Week 12 (26 May): Justice, Faith and Imprisonment**      *[Class presentation]*

Marshall, Chris

Snyder, Richard

David Cayley