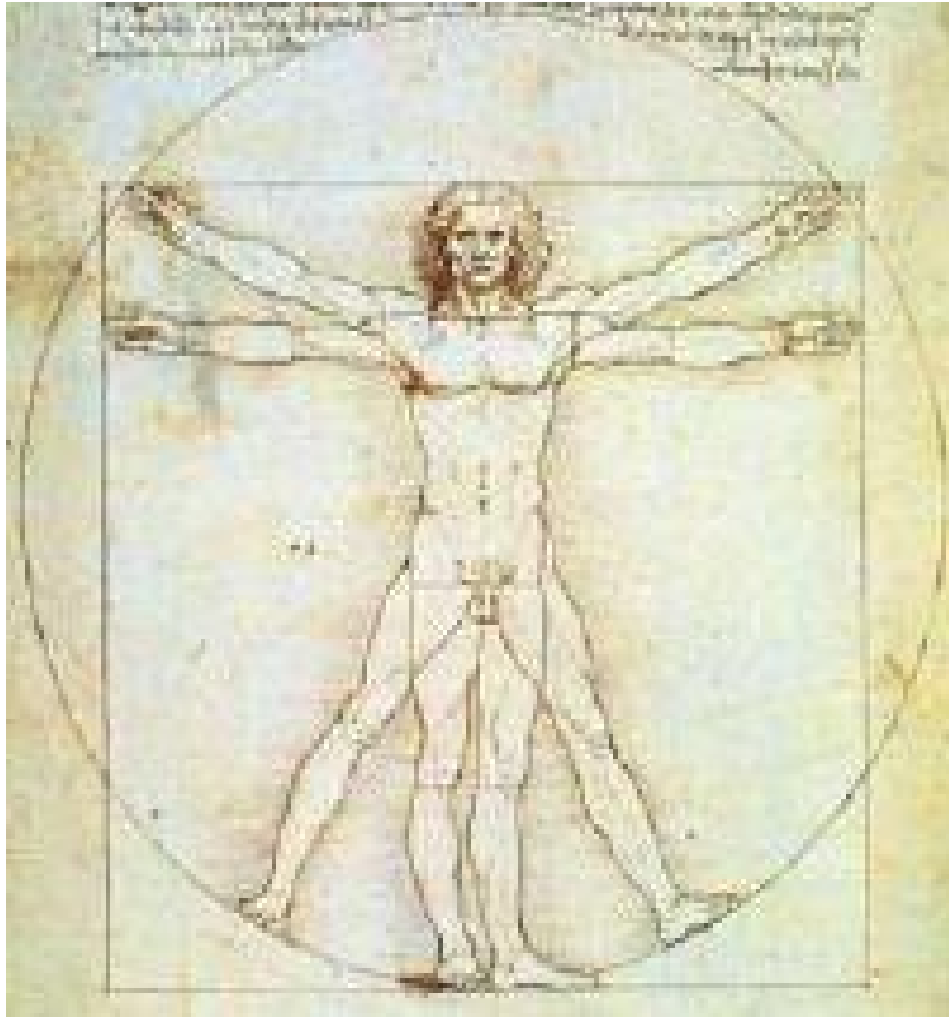


RELI 423

Advanced Studies in Science and Religion

1st Trimester Outline



Religious Studies Programme

Te Tari Matai Whakapono

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

2008

RELI 423: Advanced Studies in Science and Religion

<i>Course co-ordinators:</i>	Dr Joseph Bulbulia	HU 322 Tel: 463 5043
	Dr. Art Buehler	HU 116, Tel: 463-7409
<i>Meeting time and location</i>	TBA	

Religious Studies is in the Hunter building. The Programme Administrator, Alik Kalliabetsos, is in Hunter 318 (463 5299). **Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the department notice board outside her office.**

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Thursday, 9.30am - 12:00 noon and 2:00 - 3:30pm.

Course outline

This course comes in two parts, one for each trimester. This is the outline for the first part of the course only. Part I introduces students to advanced work in Evolutionary Approaches to Religion. Topics include religion and archeology, the neuropsychology of religious experience, cognitive theories of ritual, the religious imaginations of children, the connection between morality and religion, religious healing, and the relevance of group selection and cultural evolution to the naturalistic study of religion.

By the end of the course you will:

- Understand the studies and debates in the evolutionary study of religion.
- Be able to better read and evaluate arguments based on scientific evidence.
- Be better able to construct an argument based on scientific evidence.
- Be better able to express your ideas verbally and in writing.
- Be able to move on to advanced study in the field

3 **Required Readings:** There is a textbook available in the VUW bookstore: Bulbulia, J., Sosis, R., Genet, R., Harris, E., Wyman, K., & Genet, C. (2007). *The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques*. Santa Margarita, CA: Collins Foundation Press. Also, links to further readings are indicated below.

4 **The course is internally assessed by means of the following assignments:**

1 essay outline (1,000 words) due 2 May 2008

1 final paper (4,000 words) due 13 June 2008

5 **Mandatory course requirements:** Students must complete both parts of the course. **In part I there is an Essay outline of 1,000 words due 2 MAY 2008 by 3pm and a final paper of 4,000 words due 13 JUNE 2008 by 3pm. A WORD copy of each paper should be mailed to joseph.bulbulia@vuw.ac.nz. Any mark received for this work shall be an indicative mark only. Final marks are given only after all assessors have read and discussed your work.**

Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences): For 400-level 30 points one trimester courses, 15 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 12 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

400 – level 2 trimester 30 points

7 **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.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically at:

http://www.victoria.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

8 **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

9 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

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

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

10 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

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

11 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 contact is **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 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 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) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

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) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

- 12 **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.
- 13 **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.
- 14 **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.
- 15 **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 (2007 Calendar, p. 96) and also on p. 23 of the 2006 Assessment Handbook. Students can refer to the University's website for further information:
<http://www.victoria.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).
- 16 **Evaluation:** This course will be evaluated by UTDC.

17. Marks. All assessment marks received in this course are PROVISIONAL only. A final mark will be given only after all work has been read by the examiners. Students should be aware that provisional marks often differ from final marks.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

TRIMESTER I

Reading marked in RED are from Bulbulia, J., Sosis, R., Genet, R., Harris, E., Wyman, K., & Genet, C. (2007). *The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques*. Santa Margarita, CA: Collins Foundation Press.

3rd March

Introduction & Archaeology and the origins of symbolic culture.

- Definitions of terms
- Scope of study
- Darwin's theory
- Relevance of archaeology
- The Data
- Debates

10th March

Religion in our Genes, Memes, Groups?

- Behavioural Genetics after Nature.v. Nurture has died
- Role of genes in building minds
- Memes and Genes: our dual inheritance.

17th March

Religion in our Brains?

- Parietal lobes
- Frontal cortices
- Philosophical implications

31st March

Religion in Mind?

- Cognitive Science
- Modularity
- Anthropomorphism

7th April

Religion in our Bodies?

- The Body and Memory
- Episodic Memory/Semantic Memory
- Religion and health

28th April

Religion and Friends (cooperation)

- The evolution of cooperation
- Ritual and cooperation
- Belief and cooperation

5th May

Religion and Sex

- Sexual Selection
- The Bowerbird Hypothesis
- Critiques

12th May

Religion and Neighbours (theology)

- The problem of cooperation in groups
- The hand grenade experiment.
- Theology

Readings:

Bulbulia, J., & Mahoney, A.

19th May

Religion and Communities

- Religion and Group Selection
- Religious and Cultural Group Selection
- Cognitive Niche Construction

Reading:

Peter Richerson and Francisco Gil-White

26 May

Discussion of Student Projects

Essays and Assignments

- 1 **Essays and assignments** must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the administrator's office and students must date and sign the essay register to indicate submission. **No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned.**
- 2 **Due dates: The essay outline is due. The final essay for PART I of this course is due 13 JUNE 2008. The essay outline is due 2 MAY 2008.**
- 3 **Penalties for late essays / assignments:**
 - 1 percent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
 - essays submitted more than two weeks late will not be accepted for assessment unless prior written arrangement has been made with the lecturer.

Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

4 **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.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

- 5 **For guidance in essay writing** and presentation of bibliographies please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays, attached. Essay topics are to be discussed with the course coordinators.