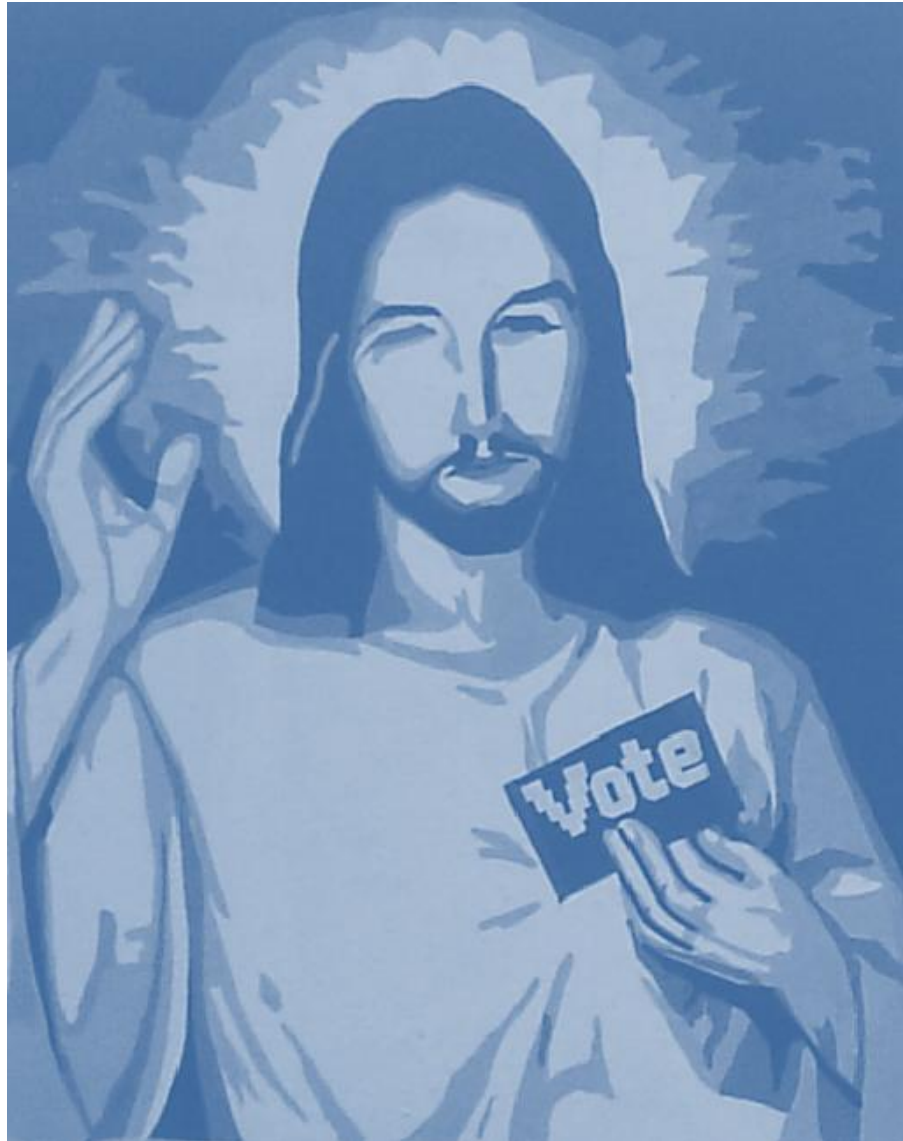


RELI 107

RELIGION, LAW AND POLITICS



School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
Trimester 2, 2012
16 July – 17 November 2012

RELI 107

RELIGION, LAW, AND POLITICS

Course co-ordinator:	Dr Geoff Troughton (geoff.troughton@vuw.ac.nz) Room: HU 319; Phone: 463 5590
Tutors:	TBA
Where and when:	Lectures: HU 323 Wednesday 11:00am – 12:50 pm
Tutorials:	Times and Seminar Room TBA
Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22-26 October 2012
Exam/Assessment period:	26 October to 17 November 2012

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Religious Studies is located in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Alik Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318 (ext 5299), aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. **Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office.**

Notices may also be communicated electronically, via email. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon; 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can meet with Geoff Troughton by appointment, and he will also answer emails promptly.

Course Outline

Course Prescription

What are the relationships between religion and politics? Is law always underpinned by religion? What drives some religious believers to conflict and violence in support of political aims, and others to peace and reconciliation? Lectures, tutorials and guest speakers enable a deeper understanding of both the New Zealand situation and some of the world's religious and political conflict areas.

Teaching Learning Summary

The course is delivered by means of one 2-hour lecture and one tutorial each week for 12 weeks.

1 The course and its aims:

The course explores the connections between religious values, law and political process.

RELI 107 is the first step in a stream of politics-related courses in religious studies. It is also a useful broadening subject for students intending to major in Law, Politics, Public Policy and related areas.

Understanding religion is an extremely important part of understanding the modern world. This course offers information and critical skills which will enable you to draw connections between international events and developments in religious studies and legal and political theory.

The course uses a mixture of presentation formats and speakers to make connections between theory and practice.

2 The learning objectives for this course are of three kinds:

a) Content objectives

To provide students with the information and critical skills to:

- Identify distinctive religious strands which have shaped the polities of NZ and other western societies
- Account for the different place of religion in the respective political cultures of the societies studied
- Critically interpret current religious or religiously-charged controversies, including (but not restricted to) legal protection of religious freedom; war, peace and violence; and gender and sexual politics.

b) Academic skills objectives

To foster the ability to:

- Read, summarise and analyse a range of literature in the disciplines of religious studies, law and political science
- Draw connections between the orientations and issues of concern in each discipline
- Critically analyse cutting-edge issues in public life from the perspective of the interrelationship of religion, law and politics
- Write a consistent and coherent argument

c) Discipline-focused objectives:

- To model an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion, supplementing the approaches modeled in other RELI courses
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge to progress to higher-level RELI courses
- To enable students majoring in other disciplines to bring a sensitivity to religious issues to bear in relevant areas

Students who pass this course should have attained these objectives

3 Rationale for assessment:

The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives.

The quizzes ensure that students read and think about the required readings prior to lectures and tutorial discussion. They also allow for continuous feedback on levels of understanding and development of the analytical skills required in other assignments.

The sources assignment is designed to build students' skills in finding and using different kinds of sources, critically analyzing authors' views, and communicating their ideas effectively in keeping with standard scholarly conventions and expectations.

The essay is the major assignment for the course; this allows students to apply their analytical skills to information relating to the lectures and weekly readings, and retrieved from the library. 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. The process also gives the opportunity to develop more in-depth knowledge of an area covered in the lectures and weekly readings.

The test allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the material presented in the course and provides students the opportunity to reflect on their learning process throughout the trimester.

4 This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials.

The **lecture programme** follows. Lectures may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given if changes occur.

Lectures are an essential part of the course, and attendance is encouraged in the strongest possible terms. **Lectures do not merely repeat the content of the readings**; rather, the course is designed as an integrated combination of lectures, readings and tutorials, and all components are necessary for students to do well.

5 Tutorials

Tutorials are held weekly, and deal with topics which complement the lecture programme. They provide an opportunity to discuss aspects of the course in a small group and develop the ability to contribute to discussions. Tutorials also include time given to explaining requirements for assessed work, and development of skills relevant to that work. **Tutorial times will be posted on the notice board in the first week of the trimester.**

6 Mandatory requirements:

The mandatory requirements for this course are: submission of the assignment, essay, and the class test; attendance at a minimum of 80% of tutorials.

7 Assessment requirements:

The course is internally assessed by means of one assignment, one essay, eight short quizzes, and one class test as follows:

Sources Assignment: 1000 words, due **Monday 20 August**, worth **20%** of the final grade

Essay: 1500 words, due **Friday 12 October**, worth **30%** of the final grade

Quizzes: eight multi-choice quizzes based on the content of the compulsory readings, to be **completed on Blackboard prior to the relevant lecture**, collectively worth **16%** of the final grade (late quizzes will be subject to a 25% penalty, as outlined on Blackboard)

Test: class test on **Wednesday 17 October**, worth **34%** of the final grade

NOTE: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy to the assignment box outside the Religious Studies office (HU 318). Please make sure to attach the appropriate **coversheet**, which will be available on Blackboard.

When you submit your hard copy, please sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when. **No responsibility will be accepted for assignments for which there is no record.** Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned.

The **essay** must be submitted in **electronic form on Blackboard, AND to the assignment box.** Electronic submission via Blackboard alone is not sufficient.

Students who do not understand the grades they have been assigned or are concerned about their progress are encouraged to meet with their tutors for a discussion about those concerns.

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

For 100-level 20 points one trimester courses, 13 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 10 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

[100 – level 1 trimester 20 points 13 hours]

9 Required text:

There is no set textbook or course reader. All readings are made available to students electronically, via Blackboard.

10 Where to find more information:

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

11 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

12 Religious Studies uses the software "Turnitin" to check student work for plagiarism:

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 head of 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 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 Level 0 Kirk, facing Hunter Courtyard tel: 463 5999.

15 Supplementary Materials:

A website of materials related to RELI 107 is being maintained in Blackboard. You can find it by visiting <http://blackboard@vuw.ac.nz>. Your user name is the one issued to you by Student Computing Services. Your password is your Student ID Number. If in doubt, please contact the Student Computing Services Help Desk, 463-6666 (extension 6666 from VUW phones) or by email scs-help@vuw.ac.nz

16 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.

17 This course is evaluated by UTDC.

Lecture Programme Summary

The lectures (**HU323, Wednesday 11.00am-1.00pm**) constitute the core of the course. Readings supplement the lectures, but do not substitute for them (nor vice versa). It is crucial for both the class test and the essays that students *both* attend all lectures *and* do all readings. A list of your readings follows

18 July (Week 1)	Introductions Right, wrong and rules: religion and law
25 July (Week 2)	God, nation and power: religion and politics
1 August (Week 3)	Nationalism and religion
8 August (Week 4)	Religion and family in politics
15 August (Week 5)	Religion, sex and marriage
22 August (Week 6)	Religion, faith and public life
	MID-TRIMESTER BREAK
12 September (Week 7)	Resisting the state: from Jesus to Waihopai
19 September (Week 8)	Buddhism and Politics: Aum Shinrikyo; Sri Lanka (MR)
26 September (Week 9)	Religion and politics in Israel (PM)
3 October (Week 10)	Religion and reconciliation (CM)
10 October (Week 11)	Religion, law and politics in NZ: from Parihaka to the present Conclusions and revision
17 October (Week 12)	CLASS TEST

Lecture Programme: Weekly Course Readings

Weekly readings, and the quizzes that go with them, should be completed **before each lecture, by 10.30am** on the relevant week; quizzes will be based on the required readings only; all set readings will be further discussed in the tutorials. The readings are all found in the relevant folders on the 'course resources' section of the RELI 107 Blackboard site; the quizzes are in a folder in the 'assignments' section. An asterisk below (*) denotes a week where you have a quiz to complete.

18 July (Week 1) Introductions
Right, wrong and rules: religion and law

25 July (Week 2) God, nation and power: religion and politics *

Key concepts: Establishment; Separation of Religion and State; Secular State; Civil Religion; Conviction; Conscience; Compromise; Fusionism

Focus: In what ways *should* and *does* religion appear in the political sphere? Should religion be subject to any political restraints?

Required Reading:

Aldridge, Alan. *Religion in the Contemporary World: A Sociological Introduction*. 2nd ed., Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007, pp. 143-161.

Additional Reading:

Taylor, Charles. 'The Meaning of Secularism.' *The Hedgehog Review* (2010): 23-34.

1 August (Week 3) Nationalism and religion

Key concepts: Nationalism; Secular State; 'Migrations of the holy'

Focus: In what ways are religion and nationalism alike and not alike? What role does religion play in the formation of national identity?

Required Reading:

Juergensmeyer, Mark. 'Nationalism and Religion.' In *The Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*, ed. Robert Segal, 357-367. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.

Jaffrelot, Christophe. 'Religion and Nationalism.' In *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, ed. Peter B. Clarke, 406-417. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Additional Reading:

Cavanaugh, William T. 'The Liturgies of Church and State.' In *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church*, 115-122. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.

8 August (Week 4) Religion and family in politics *

Key concepts: Theocracy; Christian Nationalism; Evangelicalism; Fundamentalism; Religious Right; Dog-Whistle; Family; Nuclear Family; 'Family Values'; Conservatism

Focus: Why do politicians find 'the family' such an attractive concept, and how do religious messages contribute to its political success?

Required Reading:

Dowland, Seth. "“Family Values” and the Formation of a Christian Right Agenda.” *Church History* 78, no. 3 (2009): 606-31.

Stacey, Judith. *In the Name of the Family: Rethinking Family Values in the Postmodern Age*. Boston: Beacon, 1996, pp. 38-51.

Additional Reading:

Hassall, Ian, George Hook, Robert Ludbrook and Beth Wood. *Unreasonable Force: New Zealand's Journey Toward Banning the Physical Punishment of Children*. Wellington: Save the Children New Zealand, 2008, pp. 89-107, 246-51.

15 August (Week 5) Religion, sex and marriage *

Key Concepts: Companionate Marriage; Protestantism; Civil Marriage; Sacrament; Covenant; Civil Union; Secularisation; Tradition; Human Rights

Focus: Is there anything sacred about marriage? Should there be any constraints on who can marry?

Required Reading:

Coleman, Peter. *Christian Attitudes to Marriage: From Ancient Times to the Third Millennium*. London: SCM Press, 2004, pp. 198-226.

Additional Reading:

Coontz, Stephanie. *Marriage, A History: From Obedience to Intimacy or How Love Conquered Marriage*. New York: Viking, 2005, pp. 263-280.

22 August (Week 6) Religion, faith and public life *

Key Concepts: Secularism; Separation of Church and State; Private; Public; Moral Issue; Public Reason

Focus: How relevant is a politician's religious faith to their public life? Do arguments based on religious faith have a legitimate place in political discourse? In what different ways might faith and politics interact?

Required Reading:

Cladis, Mark S. 'Painting Landscapes of Religion in America: Four Models of Religion in Democracy.' *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76: 4 (2008): 874-904.

Additional Reading:

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. 'Why We Should Reject What Liberalism Tells Us About Speaking and Acting in Public for Religious Reasons.' In *Religion and Contemporary Liberalism*, ed. Paul J. Weitham, 162-181. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1997.

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK, 27 AUGUST – 9 SEPTEMBER

12 September (Week 7) Resisting the state: from Jesus to Waihopai *

Key Concepts: Civil Disobedience; Two Kingdoms; Prophetic; Conscience; Catholic Worker

Focus: Is resistance to the state ever justifiable on religious grounds?

Required Reading:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. 'The Negro Is Your Brother.' [Letter from Birmingham Jail] *The Atlantic Monthly* 212, no. 2 (1963): 78-88. URL:

www.web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/letter_birmingham_jail.pdf.

Cortright, David. 'Dorothy Day: A Mission of Love.' In *Gandhi and Beyond: Nonviolence in an Age of Terrorism*. Boulder: Paradigm, 2006, pp. 97-109.

'The Aims and Means of the Catholic Worker.' The Catholic Worker Movement. URL: <http://www.catholicworker.org/aimsandmeanstext.cfm?Number=5>.

Additional Reading:

Rudd, Kevin. 'Faith in Politics.' *The Monthly* (online edition) no. 17 (2006). URL: <http://www.themonthly.com.au/tm/?q=node/300>.

19 September (Week 8) Buddhism and Politics: Aum Shinrikyo; Sri Lanka (MR) *

Key Concepts: Apocalyptic; Millenarian; Syncretism; Cult; Anti-cult Movement; Tamil; Just War

Focus: What do we learn from Asian cases about 'cults', and the attempts of governments to oversee, regulate and guard against them?

Required Reading:

Hardacre, Helen. 'Constitutional Revision and Japanese Religions.' *Japanese Studies* 25, no. 3(2005): 235 – 247.

Bartholomeusz, Tessa. 'In Defense of Dharma: Just-War Ideology in Buddhist Sri Lanka.' *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 6 (1999): 1-16.

26 September (Week 9) Religion and politics in Israel (PM) *

Focus: Is the Palestinian–Israeli situation a religious conflict?

Required Reading:

Flores, Alexander. 'Islamic Themes in Palestinian Political Thought.' In *Islam, Judaism, and the Political Role of Religions in the Middle East*, ed. John Bunzl, 156-165. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004.

Ehrlich, Avishai. 'Israel, Religion, and Peace.' In *Islam, Judaism, and the Political Role of Religions in the Middle East*, ed. John Bunzl, 166-189. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004.

Gelvin, James L. *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*, 2 ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. 1-13.

3 October (Week 10) Religion and reconciliation (CM) *

Key concepts: Responsibility; Justice; Reconciliation; Apology; Reparation; Retribution

Focus: What responsibilities do present generations have for the wrongs of the past? Is an institution like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission legitimate in a liberal democracy?

Required Reading:

De Gruchy, John W. 'From Resistance to National Reconciliation: The Response and Role of the Ecumenical Church in South Africa.' In *Retribution, Repentance and Reconciliation*, ed. Kate Cooper and Jeremy Gregory, 369-84. Rochester: Boydell Press, 2004.

Haws, Charles G. 'Suffering, Hope and Forgiveness: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu.' *Scottish Journal of Theology* 62, no. 4 (2009): 477-89.

10 October (Week 11) Religion, law and politics in NZ: from Parihaka to the present Conclusions and revision

Key Concepts: Indigenous religion; Colonisation; Resistance; Prophecy; Millenarianism

Focus: In the history of New Zealand, was religion more a force for colonisation or a means of resistance to it? What role does religion play now?

Required Reading:

Rosenfeld, Jean. *The Island Broken in Two Halves: Land and Renewal Movements among the Maori of New Zealand*. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999, pp. 23-32.

Morris, Paul. 'The Provocation of Parihaka: Reflections on Spiritual Resistance in Aotearoa.' In *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance*, ed. Te Miringa Hohaia, 105-116. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2001

17 October (Week 12) CLASS TEST

Tutorial Dates

Tutorial attendance is a mandatory course requirement: come to tutorials prepared to ask questions about the issues raised in the lectures and readings for each week, and to participate in discussion. The required readings are essential background *both* for the lectures and tutorials.

Week 1: 16 July--	NO TUTORIAL
Week 2: 23 July--	God, nation and power: religion and politics
Week 3: 30 July--	NO TUTORIAL
Week 4: 6 August--	Religion and family in politics
Week 5: 13 August--	Religion, sex and marriage
Week 6: 20 August--	Religion, faith and public life

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

Week 7: 10 September--	Resisting the state: from Jesus to Waihopai
Week 8: 17 September--	Buddhism and Politics: Aum Shinrikyo; Sri Lanka
Week 9: 24 September--	Religion and politics in Israel
Week 10: 1 October--	Religion and reconciliation
Week 11: 8 October--	Religion, law and politics in NZ: from Parihaka to the present Conclusions and revision
Week 12: 15 October--	NO TUTORIAL

Assignment One: Sources Assignment

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade for this course. It is due on **Monday 20 August, 5pm.**

This assignment is designed to build your skills in three key areas:

- Finding and making use of different kinds of source material
- Critical analysis of an author's position on a topic
- Communication and presentation of writing in keeping with scholarly conventions

You have two options for assignment one, either:

- OPTION A: library assignment, or
- OPTION B: William Cavanaugh assignment.

Assessment criteria:

The assessment criteria will be the same for each assignment:

- Content: completion of all components of the assignment, as instructed
- Critical analysis: quality with which the authors' key arguments are identified and evaluated
- Communication: use of correct bibliographic form, and clarity of expression

Coversheet:

Be sure to attach the appropriate coversheet to your work – as provided on Blackboard.

OPTION A: LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT

Completing this assignment will also help you prepare for the main piece of assessment for this course, your essay. The two pieces of work are designed to be complementary.

Instructions:

To complete this assignment, you need to choose your topic for the essay first. Essay topics are listed in the Course Outline as follows. Please make sure to **write your chosen essay topic clearly** at the beginning of your Assignment.

Having chosen your topic:

1. Use the **library catalogue** to find **THREE** academic books from the Victoria University Library which are not listed in the course bibliography or assigned as a course reading, but which are likely to provide useful material for the topic you have chosen for your essay.

2. **Use a database** (either Academic Onefile, ProQuest or ATLA) to find **THREE** academic journal articles (either from e-journals or printed journals) which relate to the topic you have chosen for your essay.
 - a. You must use one of the databases listed above
 - b. The articles must be refereed/peer-reviewed
3. **Print the abstracts** for the articles from the database; make sure to attach these abstracts to the hard copy of your Library Assignment
 - a. NB: the purpose of printing these is to demonstrate a) your use of one of the listed databases, and b) the ‘refereed’ status of the source. Therefore, it is essential that you print the page.
 - b. Do not simply copy and paste the abstract contents into the body of your assignment.
4. Compile all the sources you have found into a **bibliography**, following the appropriate conventions for citation of books and journal articles.
 - a. This must be completed in the Chicago style, as exemplified in the Course Outline.
5. Write a **brief analysis of the journal articles** you have found (about 300 words each). Each analysis should be completed under the following sub-headings:
 - a. Argument (summarise the author’s main argument)
 - b. Evidence (what key evidence does the author supply in support of this argument)
 - c. Alternative interpretations (if relevant, note what position(s) the author is refuting – whether implied or stated)
 - d. Evaluation (briefly indicate whether and why you are persuaded by the author’s argument)

OPTION B: WILLIAM CAVANAUGH ASSIGNMENT

In week 3, the University is hosting its inaugural St John's Visiting Scholar, Professor William T. Cavanaugh of DePaul University, Chicago. Cavanaugh is a leading Christian ethicist and theologian, with a special interest in political theology.

This assignment invites you to engage critically with Cavanaugh's work through reading selected texts and listening to his lectures. The goals and assessment criteria are the same as for the library assignment.

Instructions:

Please make sure to **write your chosen topic clearly** at the beginning of your Assignment.

1. Attend **TWO** of the following lectures:

- a. *The Myth of Religious Violence: Does Religion Cause Violence?*
(Monday 30 July, 6.00 pm, Council Chambers, Hunter Building)
- b. *The Myth of the Free Market: The Unfreedom of the Free Market*
(Tuesday 31 July, 6.00 pm, Council Chambers, Hunter Building)
- c. *The Myth of Prosperity: The Economy of Fantasy and the Current Global Financial Crisis*
(Wednesday 1 August, 12.20 pm, RH2, Rutherford House)
- d. *The Myth of Consumerism: Christianity and Consumerism*
(Thursday 2 August, 6.00 pm, Council Chambers, Hunter Building)

2. Read **TWO** of the readings from Cavanaugh, as supplied on Blackboard (in the 'administration and assessment' folder of the 'course resources' section) for this assignment. **NOTE:** you should NOT chose readings that repeat the topics of the lectures you attended.

3. Write a **brief analysis of the readings and lectures** (about 250-300 words each). Each analysis should be completed under the following sub-headings:

- a. Argument (summarise the author's main argument)
- b. Evidence (what key evidence does the author supply in support of this argument)
- c. Alternative interpretations (if relevant, note what position(s) the author is refuting – whether implied or stated)
- d. Evaluation (briefly indicate whether and why you are persuaded by the author's argument)

4. Conclude your assignment with a **bibliography**, including all sources used, following the appropriate citation conventions (using Chicago style).

- a. Lectures should be presented following the Chicago style for a "course presented at a meeting or conference".
- b. For advice: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Assignment Two: Essay

ESSAY WRITING

Essay writing is one of the most important components of your entire education. It develops key skills like:

- **Critical thinking** (in analysing your materials);
- **Creative thinking** (in conceiving of an original argument);
- **Communication** (in organising and articulating your ideas).

Please note that considerable time will be given during tutorials to explaining how to write successful essays. Your tutors will carefully explain what we are looking for, and how to do it. Look out for tips during lectures too.

Expectations of reading and research:

The required readings may be used as sources for the essays. However, your essay bibliography must include **at least three other scholarly sources**, and contain **not less than six scholarly items**. Additional reading suggestions may also be given in lectures.

Encyclopedias such as *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York: Macmillan, 1987) in the Reference Reading Room in the library can be helpful as each article also contains a bibliography, but the research for the essay must extend beyond such sources.

Assessment criteria:

Essays will be marked on the basis of the following areas:

- Focus
- Organisation
- Argumentation
- Research and comprehension
- Referencing and style

The essay marking coversheet, posted on Blackboard, will give you excellent guidance on markers' expectations. You are encouraged to use this coversheet as a tool for self-diagnosing the strengths and weaknesses of your work.

ESSAY

Your essay is due on **Friday 12 October 2012**. It should be 1500 words long, and is worth 30% of final course grade.

The essay should be a thoughtful treatment of a well-defined topic, based on your own thinking and research.

Select a question from the following options:

1. Does the public have a right to know a political candidate's religious beliefs?
2. Why have some religious groups found the idea of family values politics so attractive?
3. 'Sexuality is a private matter and neither church nor state should try to regulate it'. Discuss using specific examples.
4. Is resistance to the state justifiable on religious grounds? Should such resistance be protected? Discuss, with reference to at least one specific example.
5. What are some of the main issues at stake in the confrontation between EITHER the Japanese government and Aum Shinrikyo OR conflicting parties in Sri Lanka? What do we learn about those issues from analysis of the facts?
6. What are the principal obstacles to peace in the Middle East?
7. Analyse the role of religion in South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Or

8. Analyse the role of religion in one current legal or political debate.

NOTE: Answers to this final question will need to demonstrate attention to the current debate (e.g. in the press or other relevant literature/media), and be informed by scholarly perspectives.

Essays should address the following factors: What is the debate? What is at stake? What religious perspectives are evident, and why do they matter?

General Policies on Submission of Assignments

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

The standard Religious Studies Programme penalty of 2% per 24 hours may be deducted for essays and assignments that are submitted late, without a prior arrangement for extension. After 14 days, essays may still be accepted, but students should not expect to receive comments on their work from the marker.

Essays submitted late due to medical or personal reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a certificate from a doctor or other professional.

Submission of electronic and course copies:

Remember that essays and assignments must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the programme administrator's office, Hunter 318, and students must date and sign the essay register to indicate an essay has been submitted. **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.

Essays **must also be submitted electronically** via the Blackboard site. Essays not submitted by 5 pm on the due date will be treated as late, and penalised accordingly, just as essays not received in course copy by the due date.

Submission of quizzes:

Electronic quizzes on the weekly readings must be submitted by 10.30am, before the lecture on the relevant week. Quizzes that are submitted late will be subject to a 25% penalty (i.e. 0.5 out of a possible 2.0 per quiz).

How to cite books, articles and internet resources for essays in Religious Studies

What and when to cite

In order to avoid plagiarism (which is serious even when inadvertent), you **MUST** cite your sources in ALL cases. This means you should basically do two things:

- (1) In all cases where you use the exact words of a source, however few (including short phrases, rather than whole sentences), you must use **quote marks** around all words that are not yours; and
- (2) You should **footnote** your source for all **direct quotes** (see (1)), **facts, ideas, ways of approaching your problem, sources of inspiration**, etc. – in other words, you should **acknowledge your source in absolutely ALL cases** where your source is anything other than your own mind. Err on the side of fastidiousness. Where necessary, you can use the footnote to explain more exactly what you owe to the source in question ("My approach to this question is modelled on that found in . . ."; "The order of treatment in the following is derived from . . ." etc.).

In addition, it is good practice to **phrase your writing** in the body of your essay so that your **debts to your sources are clear**, where possible. Use phrases such as, "According to Smith," "Following Scrimgeour, we might say that . . ." "Worple informs us that . . ." "Lockhart contends that . . ." "Bagshot remarks insightfully that . . ." "Binns has shown that . . ." etc.

How to cite

It is mandatory to use a correct citation style in academic writing. The Programme standard in Religious Studies at VUW is the version of Chicago Style for the Humanities. The only exceptions to this Programme standard will be the correct and consistent use of an alternative, standard style **when expressly permitted by your course coordinator**.

Chicago Humanities style is defined in *The Chicago Manual of Style 15th ed. rev.* (University of Chicago Press, 2003). The full guide (a hefty volume) is available in the VUW library at Call No. Z253 C532 15ed (ask at the Reference desk). However, the following information should be sufficient for most of your basic needs.

Note that the **citation style differs for a footnote and for the bibliography** at the end of your essay. For each type of source, we have listed each example in both forms. Each example footnote contains a sample page number so you can be sure how to include the number of the page cited in your footnote.

Note also that as with all academic citation style conventions, every detail of the formatting for Chicago style is fixed. You must thus ensure you **follow the examples below in every detail**: order, punctuation, formatting (especially italics), spacing and so on.

Some of the details used in these examples have been modified, and some sources therefore do not really exist in the form given below.

Book – single author

Footnote:

T. N. Madan, *Non-Renunciation: Themes and Interpretations of Hindu Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), 38.

Bibliography:

Madan, T. N. *Non-Renunciation: Themes and Interpretations of Hindu Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Book – two or more authors**Footnote:**

Richard H. Robinson and Willard L. Johnson, *The Buddhist Religion: An Historical Introduction* (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1997), 113.

Bibliography:

Robinson, Richard H., and Willard L. Johnson. *The Buddhist Religion: An Historical Introduction*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1997.

Chapter or article in edited multi-author volume**Footnote:**

James P. McDermott, "Karma and Rebirth in Early Buddhism," in *Karma and Rebirth in Indian Classical Traditions*, ed. Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980), 171.

Bibliography:

McDermott, James P. "Karma and Rebirth in Early Buddhism." In *Karma and Rebirth in Indian Classical Traditions*, ed. Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, 165-192. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980.

Translated book**Footnote**

Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*, trans. by W. D. Robson-Scott (New York: H. Liveright, 1928), 28.

Bibliography

Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*. Translated by W. D. Robson-Scott. New York: H. Liveright, 1928.

Journal article – single author**Footnote:**

Richard King, "Is 'Buddha-Nature' Buddhist? Doctrinal Tensions in the *Śrīmālā Sūtra* – An Early Tathāgatarbha Text," *Numen* 42 (1995): 12.

Bibliography:

King, Richard. "Is 'Buddha-Nature' Buddhist? Doctrinal Tensions in the *Śrīmālā Sūtra* – An Early Tathāgatagarbha Text." *Numen* 42 (1995): 1-20.

Journal article – two or three authors

Footnote:

Helen Hardacre and Abe Yoshiya, "Some Observations on the Sociology of Religion in Japan: Trends and Methods," *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 5, no. 1 (1978): 18.

Bibliography:

Hardacre, Helen, and Abe Yoshiya. "Some Observations on the Sociology of Religion in Japan: Trends and Methods." *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 5, no. 1 (1978): 5-27.

Web site

Footnote:

Paul Kingsbury, "Inducing a Chronology of the Pali Canon,"
<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~kingsbur/inducing.pdf> (accessed March 28, 2008).

Bibliography:

Kingsbury, Paul. "Inducing a Chronology of the Pali Canon."
<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~kingsbur/inducing.pdf> (accessed March 28, 2008).

Reference work (e.g. encyclopaedia or dictionary)

Footnote:

Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th ed., s.v. "Sufism."

Footnote:

Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed., s.v. "Apophatic."

The abbreviation "s.v." is for the Latin *sub verbo* ("under the word").

Reference works are usually not included in the bibliography.

Sacred texts

Standard citation convention is set for the sacred texts of each major tradition. You must be sure to cite sacred texts in the correct format. Unless your lecturer for a specific course states otherwise (e.g. if conformity to a more complex standard is required for courses specialising in a particular tradition), the following conventions will apply.

The Bible

In quoting the Bible, you should use in-text citation (i.e. give your source in brackets in the body of your text, rather than using a footnote). NOTE that the Bible and the Qur'an are the only exceptions to the general rule AGAINST in-text citation in this Chicago Humanities style. (You should otherwise ALWAYS use footnotes, not in-text citation.)

The Bible is cited by book, chapter and verse. For example:

. . . as it says in the Bible (1 Kgs 2:7).

Note that books of the Bible are abbreviated according to standard abbreviations. A list of abbreviations should usually be available in the edition of the Bible you are using.

Note also that the punctuation mark comes *after* the close of the parentheses. This is also the case for the full stop in a direct quote:

". . . Absolom thy brother" (1 Kgs 2:7).

When citing multiple passages, list the abbreviated title of each *new* biblical book followed by the chapter number and colon, with all verses in that chapter separated by a comma and space. A semicolon should separate references to subsequent chapters or books. Do not include the conjunction “and” or an ampersand (“&”) before the last citation. List passages in canonical and numerical order. For example:

. . . as it says in the Bible (Matt 2:3; 3:4–6; 4:3, 7; Luke 3:6, 8; 12:2, 5).

It is preferable, unless you are discussing differences of translation and interpretation, to use a single version of the Bible throughout a piece of work. In this case, you can indicate that fact by a note with your first citation, and thereafter omit mention of the version:

Footnote:

Matt. 20:4-9. In this essay, all biblical quotations are from the *New Revised Standard Version* (London: HarperCollins Publishers, 1989).

Where you have to refer to more than one version of the Bible, you can indicate the different versions in footnotes, or by a set of abbreviations that you establish in a footnote early in the essay.

List the versions of the Bible you use in your bibliography. They should appear alphabetically according to title. For example:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: The Holy Bible. Edited by Herbert G. May and Bruce M. Metzger. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

This item would be listed alphabetically under "New".

The Qur'an

The name of the text is best written, "Qur'an."

In quoting the Qur'an, you should use in-text citation (i.e. give your source in brackets in the body of your text, rather than using a footnote). NOTE that the Qur'an and the Bible are the only exceptions to the general rule AGAINST in-text citation in this Chicago Humanities style. (You should otherwise ALWAYS use footnotes, not in-text citation.)

When quoting the Qur'an, give the abbreviation "Q.", then cite the number of the *sura* (chapter), then the number(s) of the *ayat* (verse). For example:

"Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth...." (Q. 24:35).

"Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; The Compassionate, the Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment" (Q. 1:2-4).

State in the first footnote what "translation" edition is being used for the entire document. For example:

Footnote:

In this essay, all citations from the Qur'an will be taken from *An Interpretation of the Qur'an: English Translations of the Meaning (Bilingual Edition)*, trans. Majid Fakhry (New York: New York University Press, 2000).

If you use more than one source for Qur'anic text in your essay, then you need to provide a separate, footnoted reference to each citation, specifying which version that citation is from.

In your bibliography, list each "translation" edition of the Qur'an you use alphabetically under its title. For example:

Bibliography:

An Interpretation of the Qur'an: English Translations of the Meaning (Bilingual Edition). Translated by Majid Fakhry. New York: New York University Press, 2000.

This item would be listed alphabetically under "Interpretation".

Buddhist and Indian texts

For undergraduate purposes, simply cite the English translation you are using as if it is an ordinary translated book. However, note that many Indian or Buddhist texts you will cite are compilations of multiple texts into a single volume. In such cases, you must also include the name of the text in your footnote citation. The name given to the text in English by the translator will suffice; but include the name in the original language also if it is easily accessible. For example:

Footnote:

"The Buddha's Last Days" (*Mahāparinibbāna Sutta*), in *The Long Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Dīgha Nikāya*, trans. Maurice Walshe (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1995), 232.

In your bibliography, list only the whole translated works to which you refer in your essay, according to the usual format. In other words, if you cite more than one *sutta* etc. from a single volume, you need not list every individual text, but just the volume. For example:

Bibliography:

Walshe, Maurice, trans. *The Long Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Dīgha Nikāya*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1995.

How to cite in the body of your essay

When you refer to one of your sources in the course of your argument, you should always give your source in a footnote, which is indicated by a superscript number attached to the appropriate part of the sentence.

Note that some other stylistic conventions use what is called “in-text citation”, where references are given in parentheses at the end of the sentence; you will see this method of citation often as you read. **HOWEVER, IN-TEXT CITATION IS NOT PART OF THE CHICAGO STYLE INTRODUCED HERE** (with the sole exceptions of passages from the Bible or the Qur'an), and you should consistently use footnotes indicated by superscript numbers **ONLY**.

Footnote style has been given above. Note that footnote numbers should always come *after* any punctuation mark at the end of the word they attach to; thus, it is correct to write a footnote like this,¹ but wrong to write it like this². One of the advantages of superscript numbered footnoting is that it allows you to make tangential comments, as in this example.³

When you refer to the same source several times in a row, you can use "Ibid." and the page number for all subsequent notes after the first.⁴ If you are referring to the same page number in several successive notes, then "Ibid." alone is sufficient.⁵

If you cite source A, then cite one or more other sources,⁶ and then return to source A,⁷ it is best to repeat only the author's name,⁸ a shortened title, and the page number cited,⁹ rather than to repeat the full citation. See the footnotes attached to this paragraph (notes 6-9) for examples.

In other words, only use abbreviated citations where you are citing the same source more than one time. Avoid old abbreviations like *loc. cit.*, *op. cit.* and so on, which can require the reader to keep track of sources over a number of references and pages, and are thus confusing.

¹ Random correct placed footnote.

² Random incorrectly placed footnote.

³ Constance Prevarication, *The Book of Tangential Comments* (Dargaville: Primrose Path Publications, 2004), 27. It is interesting to note that in this recent work, Prevarication reverses her previous hard-line stance on the literary sidetrack, and not only countenances it in principle, but herself indulges in it extensively in practice.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 36. [This means the reference is to the same source, but with a different page number.]

⁵ *Ibid.* [This means page 36, exactly like the preceding footnote.]

⁶ T. N. Madan, *Non-Renunciation: Themes and Interpretations of Hindu Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), 38.

⁷ Richard H. Robinson and Willard L. Johnson, *The Buddhist Religion: An Historical Introduction* (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1997), 113.

⁸ Madan, *Non-Renunciation*, 38-40.

⁹ Robinson and Johnson, *The Buddhist Religion*, 115.