

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 108 THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times, locations and contact details

Course Co-ordinator Professor Paul Morris

HU 316. paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz Ph: (04) 463 5037

Tutors

TBA

Administrator Alikali Kalliabetsos

HU 318 aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz (04) 4635299

Lecture: when and where

Friday 10:00 – 11:50; HU LT 323

Tutorials

TBA

Office Hours

The main Religious Studies office (room HU 318) is open Monday - Friday, 9:30- 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Professor Morris by appointment.

Communication of additional information

Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside HU 318. Students should enrol in tutorials through S Cubed. Tutorial lists shall be posted on the notice board in the third week of the trimester.

Prescription

This course introduces students to the major religious traditions, the relationships between them, and analysis of the role of religion in the contemporary world. Themes will include: religion and terrorism after 9/11, globalisation and religion, religion and identity, religion and the brain, religion and science, and the future of religion.

Course content

The course content

- introduces and provides basic information on a number of the world's major religious traditions.
- introduces students to major thematic concerns in a number of different religious traditions.
- introduces students to the literature and scholarship of the academic study of religions.
- provides students with relevant vocabulary, analytical frameworks, and concepts to critically analyse religious materials and data.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to

1. have an understanding of a number of major religious traditions and the different ways in which they can be studied.
2. show a critical and academic approach to the thinking and writing about religions.
3. express their views verbally and in writing and to develop their analytical, argumentative and communication skills.
4. show developed academic reading, research and presentation skills.

Teaching format

This course shall be taught by means of one two hour lecture per week and 9 tutorial sessions scheduled throughout the trimester. Tutorial discussions will focus on the lectures and on the material in the Reader. Attendance at tutorials is compulsory. It is a requirement of this course that students will attend at least 7 of the 9 tutorials. Please see appendix A for the lecture schedule, the tutorial timetable and details relating to assessment and the submission and return of work.

Mandatory course requirements.

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

1. Attend a minimum of 7 tutorials,
2. Submit two written essays,
3. Submit 7 in class quizzes,
4. Sit the class test.

Workload

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

For 20 point 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.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 2,000 word essay	30%	2, 3, 4	August 16, 2013
2	One 2,000 word essay	30%	2, 3, 4	September 27 2013
3	10 in-class quizzes	10%	1	As per lecture schedule
3	One in-class test (1hour and 40 minutes)	30%	1, 3, 4	October 18 2013

The course is internally assessed by means of two essays, ten in-class quizzes, and one class test as follows:

- Two 2000 word essays, each worth **30%** of the final grade
 - **Essay 1** due **Friday , August 16, 2013** at noon.
 - **Essay 2** due **Friday, September 27, 2013** at noon.
- 10 in-class quizzes. The weekly quizzes, carried out in class, are collectively worth **10%** of the final grade.
- An in-class test worth **30%** of the final grade, on **Friday October 18, 2013**

Rationale for assessment

The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives.

- **The class quizzes** are designed to foster reading and thinking about the required readings prior to tutorial discussion. The quizzes encourage students to critically engage with the issues and debates found in the scholarly literature.
- **The essays** allow students to research a particular topic of interest to them. Essays demonstrate the students' level of proficiency with regard to finding, understanding, and using sources. In so doing they will develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for continued study. Students can discuss the grades they have been assigned and suggestions for improvement in their essays with their tutors. If students are concerned about their progress they are encouraged to meet with their tutors for a discussion.
- **The class test** allows students to demonstrate their grasp of the material covered in the course and their understanding of the themes addressed, and creates an opportunity to review and reflect on what they have learned in the course as a whole.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted in two ways:

Students must submit essays on **Blackboard** as well as a **hard copy** to the locked assignment box located near the Programme administrator's office (HU 318). Students must date and sign the essay register when an essay is submitted. No responsibility will be taken for assignments left in the box or pushed under doors for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. Marked essays may be collected from the Religious Studies office, HU 318.

Penalties

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 1 percent point per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays, up to 2 weeks from due date.
- To avoid these deductions, an extension may be sought with an explanation in writing. The reason for the extension does not need to be medical; in the event that it is, a medical certificate must be submitted.
- Requests for extensions may be made to the tutor or the course co-ordinator
- If a student misses a quiz in any week, they may ask the Course Co-ordinator or their tutor to be allowed to sit out of class time, in order to make up to the minimum number required.

Supplementary Materials

A website of materials related to **RELI 108** 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

Set texts

All required Readings are available on Blackboard

Class representative

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. 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.

This course will be evaluated by **CAD**.

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 copyright and other relevant issues.

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 wing on the Hunter courtyard, tel: 463 5999

Guidance in essay writing and presentation of bibliographies

Please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays, attached to Appendix A.

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/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz