

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 110 Myth and Ritual

20 Points

TRIMESTER 3 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 18 November 2013 – 20 December 2014

Teaching dates: 18 November 2013 – 20 December 2014

Last assessment item due: 22 December 2013

NB Essay 2 is to be submitted electronically only, to Blackboard (by 22 December 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 and locations

Lecture: when and where Wednesday and Thursday 17:30 – 19:20; HU 323
Tutorials **tba** Please see notice board outside HU 318

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator Rick Weiss
 HU 215, rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz
Administrator Alikali Kalliabetsos
 HU 318; 463 5299; aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside the administrator's office. Tutorial times shall be posted on the notice board in the first week of the trimester

Office Hours

The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9:30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Rick by appointment.

Prescription

This course focuses on the interplay of myths and rituals. Diverse case studies show how myth and ritual intersect to create, sustain and disrupt established religious, political and other social systems. Special emphasis will be placed on arts, music and the performance of myth and ritual in the global experience of religious traditions.

The course content **

- introduces and provides basic information on a number of the world's major religious traditions.
- introduces students to major theoretical and methodological approaches to the myths and rituals of 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.
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**** Please see Appendix A for Lecture and tutorial schedules.**

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate skills for critical and analytical thinking about religions, religious traditions, and the academic study of religion;
2. evaluate theories of religion and communicate them in their academic research and writing;
3. creatively analyse the relationship between myth and rituals in the academic study of religion;
4. demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific religious traditions, important for developing 'religious literacy' in our globalising world;
5. offer interpretations of data – historical, textual, ethnographic, etc. – that demonstrate an understanding of complex religious contexts and traditions.

Teaching format

This course shall be taught by means of two 2-hour lectures per week and four 50 minute tutorial sessions (one per week) throughout the teaching period of the trimester (18 November – 20 December 2013). Tutorial sign-up sheets are on the notice board outside HU 318. Students should add their name to one of these after the first lecture.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- submit two essays,
- sit the in-class test, and
- attend at least three out of the four tutorials.

Work-load 30 hours across a week. cf. Assessment Handbook 2009, s.1.2 (a)

Rationale for assessment

The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives. More details on the particular items of assessment is included in the "Appendix to Course Outline."

- There are **5 short reading responses** of approximately 250 words each to be handed in at tutorials, and at the last lecture. These encourage students to critically engage with the content and issues presented in the readings and lectures. These offer a chance for students to begin to work creatively with specific data and to evaluate scholarly arguments.
- **The essays** are to be a 1500-word *review essay* and a 2000-word *research essay*. This work demonstrates the students' level of proficiency with regard to finding, understanding, and using course materials. In so doing they will develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for continued study.
- **The in-class test** allows students to demonstrate their understanding of the material presented in the course, and rewards them for overall mastery of course content (including concepts).

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.

Assessment

The course is internally assessed by means of five reading responses, two essays, and one class test as follows:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLOs	Due date
1 Five reading responses of about 250 words each	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	In tutorials
2 One review essay of about 1,500 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	6 December 2013
3 One in-class test held in the last lecture of the course	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	19 December 2013
4 One research essay of about 2,000 words	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	22 December 2013

Submission and return of work

Essay 1 is to be submitted in two ways, electronically to Blackboard, and a hard copy to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, HU 318. Essay 2 is only to be submitted via Blackboard. Assessment shall be returned marked to students within 2 weeks of submission.

Due dates/Penalties

Unexcused late essays will be subject to a penalty of 2% per day late. Students who anticipate their work might be late due to legitimate extenuating circumstances should communicate with the course coordinator or tutor as early as possible.

The **very final deadline** for submission of all essays is **Sunday, December 22, 2013**. No work can be accepted after this, as for the purposes of this course, the trimester ends on this date.

Set text

The Reli 110 Course Reader, may be obtained from Vic Books There is no set textbook. The vicbooks website is: www.vicbooks.co.nz

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:

Supplementary Materials

A website of materials related to RELI 110 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

Guidance in essay writing and presentation of bibliographies

Please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays, attached.

Evaluation

This course will be evaluated by CAD. **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/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