FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 106 PRAYER, MEDITATION, TRANCE AND ECSTASY: A STUDY OF THE TECHNIQUES OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Study period: 28 May–2 June 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Wednesday 13:10 – 15:00   MacClaurin, MC LT 101

Tutorials: TBA

Tutorials start the second week of the trimester and occur every week except for the Easter/Mid-trimester break, 3 – 19 April 2015, the week of Monday 27 April, and the test week, i.e. Monday 1 June. Tutors will be available in weeks without tutorials for one to one consultations, by appointment.

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator: Assoc. Professor Joseph Bulbulia
                            joseph.bulbulia@vuw.ac.nz   ph: 463 5043   KP 14, room 201
Office Hours: Monday 9am – 10am or by appointment

Course Manager: Hanlie Booysen
                            hanlie.booysen@vuw.ac.nz   ph: 463 5233 X7907   KP 14, room 109C
Office Hours: Wednesday 11am – 12am or by appointment

Tutors: Emma Wicks   emma.wicks@vuw.ac.nz
                           Comfort Max-Wirth   comfort.max-wirth@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Aliki Kalliabetsos
                           aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz   ph: 463 5299   KP 14, room 203

Communication of additional information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students on Blackboard. Because information about the course will change from time to time, students are expected to check Blackboard for updates regularly (at least once per week).

Prescription

This course explores religion through the things that people do. It considers how spiritual practices - rituals, bodily postures, altered states of consciousness, music - shape individual and collective experience. The course is also an introduction to some of the prominent methods and debates that define the discipline of religious studies.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:
1. Acquire a basic understanding of major religious studies research methodologies.
2. Acquire familiarity with ritual traditions in eastern and western religious traditions.
3. Write a clear and persuasive critical commentary.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:
1. Attend a minimum of 7 out of 9 tutorials
2. Submit at least 3 assignments
3. Take the final test

Workload

For 20 points one trimester courses, 13hours 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. The total workload for the course, including class time, should be about 200 hours.

Assessment

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Critical Response Essay (about 500 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hrs	15%	1,2,3	20 March
2	Critical Response Essay (about 500 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hrs	20%	1,2,3	24 April
3	Critical Response Essay (about 500 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hrs	20%	1,2,3	8 May
4	Critical Response Essay (about 500 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hrs	20%	1,2,3	22 May
5	Final Test, in-class (100 minutes duration) 20 hours course work throughout term + 22 hours study in the week of the test. (Recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hrs)	25%	1,2	3 June

Marking Criteria

Critical response essays:

33.3% for clarity.
33.3% for critical engagement.
33.4% for creativity.

Test:

33.3% for clarity.
33.3% for critical/creative engagement.
33.4% for accuracy.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.
Readings.
Four response essays of about 500 words each.
Final test

Submission and return of work

Response essays must be submitted electronically via Blackboard. Response essays are due at midnight on the due date. Marks for each item of assessment will be noted on Blackboard, normally within two weeks from submission date.

Extensions and Penalties

- Essays longer than 1,500 words will be returned for re-submission.
- Any late submission will *not* receive written feedback (verbal feedback is always possible, and every student has the right to make an appointment with the tutor to receive verbal feedback).
- Unexcused late submissions will receive a 1 percentage point deduction for each day that the assignment is late.
- Students will have a 48-hour grace period before receiving point deductions. This period includes weekends and holidays (e.g. if an essay is due midnight Friday, points will be deducted beginning midnight Sunday).
- For work to be excused as late, a student will need to provide evidence of a valid excuse (such as a medical certificate) to the student's tutor.
- If the tutor does not approve of a student's excuse, a student may write to the course manager for a meeting between the student and tutor.

Materials and equipment

- Students are permitted computers, tablets, and phones in class for the purposes of taking notes. Students must disable wireless. During lecture, cell phones must be switched off.

Set texts

PDFs to readings are available as links from this document. This course outline can be found in Blackboard under Course Resources.

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:

Student feedback

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz