

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

***ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES***

***RELIGIOUS STUDIES***

***RELI 226 PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION***

***RELI 310 SPECIAL TOPIC: PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION***

***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

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

**Class times and locations**

Lectures: Thursday 09:00 – 10:50 am KK 301

Tutorials: tba

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr John Shaver Ph: 463 5462 Room: KP 14 202  
[John.shaver@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:John.shaver@vuw.ac.nz)

Tutors: tba

**Communication of additional information**

Religious Studies is at 14 Kelburn Parade. The Programme administrator, Alikali Kalliabetsos, is in KP 14 203. We will communicate additional information by Blackboard and by student email.

**Prescription**

This course provides an introduction to the psychology of religion. Many people identify with religious groups or traditions and claim to have religious or spiritual experiences. This course explores how contemporary psychology research sheds new light on human religiosity. Topics include: the development of religion in children, the relationship between religion and morality, rituals, altered states of consciousness, and religion and identity.

## Course content

Please see Appendix to this course outline, on Blackboard

## Teaching format

- Lectures
- Tutorials

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. receive a mark of at least 10/25 for the mid-trimester test and 10/25 for the final class test
2. attend at least 60% of all tutorials or submit extra assignments.

## Workload

This course is worth twenty points (20pts). One point typically equates to ten hours of work. For a twenty-point course, the 200 hours should be spread evenly over trimester.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 226

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. understand cutting edge theories and research in the psychology of religion;
2. better evaluate arguments based on quantitative data;
3. write a clear, persuasive, and original commentary about an evidence-based argument.

## Assessment RELI 226

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One short research essay between 750-1000 words (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	20 March 2015
2	One short research essay between 750-1000 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	2 April 2015
3	One short research essay between 750-1000 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	1 May 2015
4	One short research essay between 750-1000 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	15 May 2015
5	One short research essay between 750-1000 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	29 May 2015
6	Mid-trimester Test. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 60 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	23 April 2015
7	Final Test: (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 60 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	4 June 2015

## Course learning objectives (CLOs) RELI 310

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- 1 understand and form an opinion about cutting edge theories and research in the psychology of religion;
- 2 better evaluate and analyse arguments based on data;
- 3 write a clear, persuasive, and original commentary about an evidence-based argument.

## Assessment RELI 310

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One short critical response essay between 1,000-1,200 words (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	20 March 2015
2	One short critical response essay between 1,000-1,200 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	2 April 2015
3	One short critical response essay between 1,000-1,200 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	1 May 2015
4	One short critical response essay between 1,000-1,200 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	15 May 2015
5	One short critical response essay between 1,000-1,200 words. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 15 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	29 May 2015
6	Mid-trimester Test. (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 60 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	23 April 2015
7	Final Test: (Recommended time to be spent on this task: 60 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	4 June 2015

Guidelines for these essays, along with templates, and examples of exemplary essays can be found under "Course Resources" on Blackboard. Please consult these documents before writing your short essays.

Short essays must be submitted on Blackboard. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that his or her work has been submitted (when in doubt, ask your tutor to verify).

## Submission and return of work

1. All work must be submitted by Blackboard, unless special permission is given prior to the due date.
2. All work must contain a student's name, a student's ID number, and relevant contact details, and a word count (inclusive of notes/bibliography).
3. Normally, the only valid excuse for an extension will be a medical certificate or a note from a professional counsellor.
4. Students are required to check Blackboard and their student email address (or the email address that is linked to Blackboard) at least once per a week for up to date information about any course changes.
5. Marks and feedback shall be given within 2 weeks of submission of each piece of written work.

## Extensions and Penalties

- Essays longer than 1,500 words will be returned for re-submission.
- Unexcused late submissions will receive a 3% 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 5pm Friday, points will be deducted beginning 5pm 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 the coordinator for meeting between the student and tutor.
- Eating or talking in lecture is inappropriate. Students who violate this rule or who disrupt the lecture in any way will be dismissed for the remainder of the lecture.

## Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Students are permitted to use personal computers in the classroom for note-taking purposes only.

## Set texts and recommended readings

All readings are available on Blackboard or by clicking PDF links on this course outline above.

## 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:
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## 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)

- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)