

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 113 *What is Religion? Identity, Experience and Practice*

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 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: HU 323 Thursday 13:10 – 15:00

Tutorials: Rooms and times tba. Tutorials start in the second week of the trimester and students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor Paul Morris, KP14 / 204, paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz, 463 5037

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos, KP14 / 203, aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz, 463 5299

Communication of additional information

Additional information on any changes or notices regarding the course will be conveyed to students, through Blackboard. 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. Tutorials are administered through myAllocator, and students should enrol on line. Tutorial lists shall be posted on the Programme notice board, outside the Religious Studies office at 14 Kelburn Parade room 203.

Prescription

Religion continues to be central to society, politics and culture in our world today. This course looks at the role of religion in shaping current debates about vital issues in New Zealand and overseas, such as radical atheism, fundamentalism, same-sex marriage, ethical politics and economy, and religious diversity.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an overview of selected and critical themes from a number of major religious traditions and their on-going impact in the contemporary world and the different ways in which they can be studied academically.
2. Demonstrate a critical and academic approach to the thinking and writing about religions.
3. Demonstrate the ability to express their views verbally and in writing and to develop their analytical, argumentative and communication skills.
4. Demonstrate developed academic reading, research and presentation skills.

Teaching format

This course includes both lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate theoretical and descriptive materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator

Workload

For 20 point one trimester courses, 200 hours spread over the trimester are recommended. An average student should spend 13 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 1,500 word essay (Recommended average time spent on this task 60 hours)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	14 August 2015
2 One 2,000 word essay (Recommended average time spent on this task 70 hours)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	25 September 2015
3 10 in-class quizzes (Recommended average time spent on this task 20 hours)	10%	1	Throughout the trimester
3 One in-class test (1 hour and 50 minutes duration) (Recommended average time spent on this task 50 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	15 October 2015

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to Blackboard electronically and hard copies must be submitted to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, KP14 /203. Both methods of submission are mandatory. Marked essays are to be collected from the Programme Office, approximately two weeks after submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions and Penalties

A penalty of 2% per 24 hours may be deducted for essays and assignments submitted late, without an extension. If students require an extension, this should be arranged with the tutor prior to the relevant deadline. 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. Students who anticipate their work might be late due to legitimate extenuating circumstances should communicate with the tutor as early as possible.

Set texts

There is no Reader for this course. All readings are available on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Please see Appendix A

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

All student feedback from course evaluations is considered and any suggested improvements applied. Students responded positively to course content and delivery.

The course shall 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-progress (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