



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**RELI 221 Religion, Politics and Disenchantment**

**20 POINTS**

**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](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: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:50 KK 301

Tutorials: Tuesday 12:10 – 1:00 KK 105

Tuesday 2:10 – 3:00 MY 401

Wednesday 12:10 – 1:00 KK 107

Students should sign up for tutorials through myAllocator.

#### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Philip Fountain - [philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz) KP 14 / 206, 463 9477

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos - [aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz) KP 14 / 203, 463 5299

Tutor: Bruno Shirley - [bruno.shirley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:bruno.shirley@vuw.ac.nz), KP14 / 103.

## **Communication of additional information**

Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside the Religious Studies Programme office, KP 14 / 203. Notices will also be communicated to students via announcements and email on Blackboard.

## **Prescription**

This course examines the relationship between people's nations and their gods. Focusing on hotly contested notions of secularism and secularisation, and the social, political and religious implications of these ideas. It considers whether religiously plural societies are less tolerant; why religious differences sometimes become violent and the meanings and significance of religion-state separation.

## **Course content**

Please see Appendix A for lecture schedule and required reading.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Attain a good understanding of the state of scholarly research on the secular
2. Critically evaluate differences in theoretical perspectives concerning the meanings and effects of secularisation and secularism
3. Outline a range of distinctive religious responses to the conditions posed by modern secular societies
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills relevant for academic research

## **Teaching format**

This course is taught by means of one two-hour lecture per week and 9 tutorial sessions scheduled throughout the trimester. The lectures communicate historical, theoretical and doctrinal materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to both the lecture and tutorial. Please check Appendix A for the relevant topics and readings for each week.

## **Mandatory course requirements (MCRs)**

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

1. Obtain at least 40% in each piece of assessment in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course.
2. 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 courses a student should, on average, spend 13 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 approximately 200 hours.

## Assessment

All essays should be written in clear language and should contain a coherent, structured and organised argument. Essays should conform to standard referencing practices, including a correctly formatted bibliography. A document providing guidance on referencing will be uploaded to Blackboard. All essays will be submitted to the plagiarism-detection software Turnitin.

Assessment items	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Secularisation Essay (2000 words). This task should take approximately 70 hours.	35%	1,2,4	21 August 2015
2 Secularism Essay (2500 words). This task should take approximately 80 hours.	40%	1,2,4	9 October 2015
3 Final in-class test. This task should take approximately 50 hours.	25%	1,2,3,4	13 October 2015

## Submission and return of work

All essays should be submitted in electronic format on Blackboard. Marked essays shall be returned within three weeks from the date of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office.

## Extensions and penalties

Please submit all assignments by 5:00pm on the due date. Late assignments may be subject to a penalty of 2% per day late. Students who require an extension for legitimate reasons should apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question. Essays submitted late due to medical reasons may be required to provide a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

## Set texts

All course readings will be available on Blackboard. Additional recommendations may be offered in lectures or tutorials.

## 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 shall be evaluated by CAD

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

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)