



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 331 Religion, Conflict and Peacemaking

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. 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: Friday 10:00 – 11:50 AM 106

Tutorials: Friday 1:10-2:00 OK 301

Monday 10:00-10:50 KK 107

Students should sign up for tutorials through myAllocator.

Please note that both tutorials fall AFTER the lecture. For example, the Monday tutorial for week two (on Sacrifice) takes place at the start of week three (i.e. 27 July).

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Philip Fountain - philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz KP 14 / 206, 463 9477.

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

Tutor: Bruno Shirley - 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

An exploration of the role of religion in promoting conflict and terror, and of the power and potential of religion for transforming conflict and building peace. There will be a particular focus on the distinctive historical, theological, symbolic and practical resources religious communities can offer to the task of peacemaking in a violent world.

Course content

Please see Appendix A for lecture schedule and required reading.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Critically analyse a diverse range of discourses and practices about the nature of religious violence
2. Critically analyse a diverse range of discourses and practices about the nature of religious peacemaking
3. Discuss specific case studies of religious conflict and peace-building
4. Develop and hone analytical skills in the comparative analysis of religion
5. Articulate nuanced arguments that draw upon and deploy empirical and theoretical knowledge about religion

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 and workload per item		%	CLOs	Due
1	Review essay (2000 words). This task should take approximately 60 hours.	30%	1,2,3,5	14 August 2015
2	Research essay (3,000 words). This task should take approximately 100 hours.	50%	2,3,5	2 October 2015
3	Synthesis essay (1500 Words). This task should take approximately 40 hours.	20%	1,2,4,5	26 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

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