FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Religious Studies
RELI 422 Advanced Studies in Religion and Politics
30 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

Lecture/Seminars: KP14 / 204 Friday 10:00-13:00

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor Paul Morris, KP14 / 204, paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz, 463 5037
Administrator: Aliki Kalliabetsos, KP14 / 203, aliki.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.

Prescription

This course examines textual, theological and practical resources that religious believers use to inform their engagement with political and public issues. Contemporary issues are evaluated against the backdrop of historical debates concerning interactions of religion and politics. Case studies exemplify approaches to political thought and activism used within different traditions.

Course Content

We shall examine the relationships: (1) between religion and the state; (2) between different religions within a state; and (3) between transnational religions. These relationships will be explored through a combination of theoretical models and case studies, both historical and contemporary. Concerns include issues of sovereignty; political and spiritual power; religious diversity; power, authority and law; and the management of religious diversity

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:
1. have the knowledge and critical skills to analyse the realities and rhetoric of different religious diversity management models and to evaluate the merits and short comings of different systems.
2. have increased critical academic appreciation of the scholarly literature in the area.
3. have enhanced research skills in planning, researching, and presenting research.
4. have improved oral and written communication and presentation.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through weekly seminars. The seminar programme may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, a revised programme will be issued.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:
1. Attend a minimum of 80% of seminars 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

Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):

The total expected workload for this course is 300 hours spread evenly over the trimester.

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal and draft bibliography. Recommended average time spent on this task 75 hours	10%	1, 2, 3	11.09.15
2	One presentation, during designated class time. Recommended average time spent on this task 50 hours	20%	3, 4	
3	One **essay** of a maximum of 5,000 words. Recommended average time spent on this task 175 hours	70%	1, 2, 3, 4	16.10.15

Rationale for assessment

The research proposal and essay allow students to apply their analytical skills to information retrieved through library research on a set topic in planning an academic research essay. Essays demonstrate the students' level of proficiency in finding, understanding, and using sources. They develop the skills of critical reading, analysis, organizing and presenting material necessary for continued study in the area. The process also gives the opportunity to develop more in-depth knowledge of an area covered and the skills of critical analysis.

The seminar presentations allow students to develop their skills in small group teaching and discussion.

Submission and return of work

Work for assessment must be submitted to the essay box outside the Programme office, KP14/203. Work shall be returned approximately 2 weeks from date of submission.

Set texts

There is no set textbook for the course. Readings shall be available via Blackboard or copies may be provided by the Religious Studies Programme at a student's request at cost.

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:

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Class Rep name and contact details:
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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-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