



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 108 THE World's Religions

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 13:10 – 15:00 HU 323

Tutorials: tba students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Rick Weiss rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz, KP 14 / 205, 463 6726

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz, KP 14 / 203, 463 5299

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room 203. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from 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. Students should enrol on line.

Prescription

This course introduces students to the major religious traditions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism. We study the most important religious texts, spiritual leaders, and ritual practices in history, and we also explore contemporary issues and controversies.

Course content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write about religion, and issues in the formal study of religion, in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner. The course uses a mixture of lectures and small-group discussions to make connections between theory and lived religious experience. The course also aims to improve students' skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and communication.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. engage with significant features of a range of religious traditions, and demonstrate knowledge of the range, variety and complexity of religions worldwide;
2. approach the study of religion, and various religious phenomena, in a critical manner, based upon evaluation of primary evidence and scholarly resources;
3. understand the study of religion as a critical discipline; that is, examine the political, economic, social, historical, conceptual and cultural dimensions of religious activity;
4. make and defend arguments in a manner that demonstrates key research and writing skills, and critical awareness.

Teaching format

This course is designed as an integral combination of lectures, readings, tutorials, and assigned work. These components are complementary with one another, not redundant, and ALL components of the course are necessary for students to do well. It is thus recommended in the strongest possible terms that students do the reading, attend all lectures and tutorials, and keep up with the required work for the course. Please see Appendix A for the Lecture Schedule, the tutorial timetable and details relating to the assessment for this course.

Tutorials explore topics which complement the lecture programme. They provide an opportunity to discuss aspects of the course in a small group and develop the ability to contribute to discussions. This is an important part of the apparatus the course uses to develop students' skills in critical thinking and communication.

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 courses, a student should spend on average 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

RELI 108 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 essay of 1,500 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	15 April, 2016
2	1 essay of 1,500 words (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	3 June, 2016
3	3 in-class quizzes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 9 hours)	10%	1, 2, 3	Administered in class time throughout the trimester
4	3 reading response assignments of one side of A4 (Recommended average time spent on this task: 21 hours)	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	To be submitted in the relevant tutorial. All must be submitted by 27 May, 2016
5	1 in-class final test of 110 minutes (Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	In class, 30 May, 2016, 1.10 – 3.00 pm

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the **assignment box** outside the Religious Studies office KP 14, Room 203. Please make sure you sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when. Essays are **also** to be **submitted electronically, via Blackboard**, in part so that student work can be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn. **DO NOT EMAIL YOUR ESSAYS TO THE LECTURER OR TUTOR. No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record.** Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. Marked assignments may be collected from the Religious Studies office approximately 2 weeks from the date of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question.

Penalties

- 2 percent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.
- Late reading assignments will immediately be penalised 30% (3/10).

Set texts

There is no set textbook. All readings for this course will be made available in the course reader, to be purchased from VicBooks, or through the library catalogue or online sources via links on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Please see the "Reli108 Lecture Programme" for a full reading list for this course.

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.

Student feedback

The course was well-regarded by students last year. As a result of student feedback, this year the course will allow for much more flexibility in the writing of the two essays, using a 'mix and match' format that allows students to examine specific themes and traditions of most interest to them.

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.

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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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