

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 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

Study period: 6–9 June 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: Wednesday 15:10 – 1700 HU 119

Tutorials: tba

Students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Philip Fountain philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz KP 14 / 106, 463 5491

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz KP 14 / 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

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, secularisation and secularism;
2. be cognizant of diverse trajectories of secularisation which have unfolded in different contexts
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 required readings and lectures. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to the lecture and tutorial. Please check Appendix A for the relevant topics and readings for each week.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50% students must attend a minimum of 7 out of 9 tutorials. Tutorial attendance is necessary for demonstrating 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 referencing practices as laid out in the Chicago Style for the Humanities, 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	Essay 1 (1500 words) (recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hours)	25%	1,2,3,4	4 April 2016
2	Essay 2 (2500 words) (recommended average time spent on this task: 70 hours)	35%	1,2,3,4	16 May 2016
3	2 short answer in-class tests (10% each) (recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours)	20%	1,2,3,4	23 March 2016 20 April 2016
4	End-of-class test (recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours)	20%	1,2,3,4	1 June 2016

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

All assignments should be submitted 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. Students submitting essays 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.

Student feedback

All student feedback from course evaluations is considered and improvements are regularly made on that basis. Students responded positively to course content and delivery.

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