



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Religious Studies

RELI 335 ARGUING ABOUT RELIGION: DISCOURSE AND DEBATE

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: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:50 AM 104

Tutorials: tba Students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Rick Weiss rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz KP14/205; 463 6726

Administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsos Alikali.Kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz KP14/203; 463 5299

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is at 14 Kelburn Parade. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board near the Programme office (KP14/203).

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday – Friday, 9.30 am – 12:00 noon, and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with the class co-ordinator by appointment.

Prescription

This course will examine the role of theory and methodology in the contemporary academic study of religion. Topics include: the methodological history of Religious Studies; category formation, evidence and findings in the study of religion; Theology versus Religious Studies; the phenomenological method and beyond; recent developments in the social scientific study of religions; contemporary empirical studies of religion; current critiques of religion; and post-modern accounts of religion.

Course content

Please see Appendix to this course outline.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. discuss current public and scholarly debates about religion in public and scholarly contexts;
2. critically engage with the issues and debates found in scholarly literature on methodology and theory in the study of religions;
3. demonstrate academic autonomy, that is, the capability to develop frameworks for the undertaking of research and the confident presentation of findings in writing;
4. develop their advanced research skills by preparing a project on a chosen topic;
5. develop their communication skills, through an oral presentation and through written assessments.

Teaching format

The course uses a mixture of lectures, discussion, and tutorials. The lectures communicate both content and ideas, that is, historical and doctrinal materials, as well as relevant theories. However, because of the format of the course, there is more emphasis on discussion in the lectures than is usual in undergraduate courses. The tutorials allow students the opportunity to further develop their communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures. It is essential that students attend lectures and tutorials, as the lecturer and tutor use these to introduce material that is not contained in the readings.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- attend at least **six tutorials**,

in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs.

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 as soon as possible.

Workload

For 20 point one-trimester courses, 200 hours across the trimester (including contact time). A student should spend on average 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One short essay of 1,500 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours	20%	1, 2, 3, 5	1 April, 2016, 5pm
2	One short research essay of 2,000 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 60 hours	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3 June, 2016, 5pm
3	Three in-class quizzes on the weekly readings Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours	15%	1, 2	Administered in class time throughout the trimester
4	One oral presentation Recommended average time spent on this task: 20 hours	10%	1, 2, 3, 5	In tutorial: sign- up in first tutorial
5	One in-class test Recommended average time spent on this task: 50 hours	25%	1, 2, 3, 5	31 May, 2016, 5pm

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the assignment box outside the Religious Studies office, KP14/203. Make sure you sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when. Essays are also to be submitted electronically, via Blackboard. No responsibility shall be taken for essays 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 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, and if possible, before the due date of the assessment in question.

Penalties

2 per cent 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.

Set texts

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

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 had excellent ratings last year. In order to improve discussion in the course, I will give three quizzes in class time over the trimester. This aims to encourage students to do the weekly readings prior to the lecture.

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