

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Religious Studies

RELI 427 Advanced Studies in Religious Texts

30 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

Seminars: Tuesday 13:10 – 16:00 KP 14 102

Names and contact details

Coordinator: Dr Eva Nisa KP14/104; 463 7908 eva.nisa@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz KP14/203; 463 5299

The Religious Studies office is open Monday – Friday, 9:30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Professor Morris by appointment.

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

A critical study, in English, of a sacred text or texts from a selected major religious tradition.

Course content

The course content consists of readings of important works—classical and contemporary—in the field of Religious Studies, with particular emphasis on Qur'anic exegesis. It aims to engage students with various dimensions of Quranic exegesis, and sacred texts of other religious traditions in general. It covers issues such as what is distinctive about Qur'anic exegesis in a comparative perspective; ways in which methods and issues arising in Qur'anic exegesis might be typical of the ways religious traditions engage with sacred texts more broadly; ways in which the Qur'an has been interpreted by Religious Studies scholars, which might be different from those of the tradition, or even unacceptable to it; implications of this last question for the broader standoff in methods and assumptions between Religious Studies and Islam (or any of the traditions Religious Studies takes as objects of its study). This course will also equip students with skill in approaching, reading, and understanding sacred texts. Finally, it will equip students with critical thinking and writing skills.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Identify and analyse issues of scholarly interest in the study of Islamic texts;
2. Demonstrate familiarity with scholarly literature in English pertinent to the analysis of issues in the study of Islamic texts;
3. Demonstrate the ability to construct a coherent, well-written, evidence-based argument with respect to an issue in the study of Islamic texts;
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate orally the findings and significance of research pertaining to Islamic texts, and related questions in current scholarship.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through regular 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%, in order to demonstrate achievement of CLOs and create a good collaborative learning environment for all course participants, students must:

1. attend at least seven out of nine seminars
2. achieve 40% on all assessed work

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

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

Assessment

Assessment and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 1,000-word proposal with bibliography Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours	15%	1,2,3	15 April
2	One oral presentation (15-20 minutes long) Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours	15%	4	Week 8
3	One 6000-word essay Recommended average time spent on this task: 140 hours	70%	1,2,3	20 May / 3 June

- a. Students must submit a full polished draft (their *best* draft) of the essay by **Friday 20 May**
- b. The full final version of the essay must be submitted by **Friday 3 June**
- c. Time allocations assume that students also spend at least 10 hours a week, in weeks when classes meet, preparing assigned readings.

Rationale for assessment

The essay allows students to apply their analytical skills through critical engagement with relevant primary texts and secondary literature. The essay demonstrates the students' level of proficiency in reading, understanding, and critiquing scholarly writing. They develop the skills of critical reading, creative analysis, constructing an argument, and organizing material necessary for continued study in the area. The oral presentations develop the students' skills in oral presentation of similar material, and giving and receiving constructive, critical feedback on scholarly work.

Due Dates

Deadlines for handing in work for assessment:

Oral presentations: Tuesday, 19 April, (Week 7); Tuesday 24 May, (Week 11)

Proposal and Bibliography: Friday April 8, 5 p.m.

Essay: full polished draft: Friday 20 May 5 p.m.

Final submission Friday June 3, 5 p.m.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted electronically and hard copies must be submitted to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, KP14/203. Both methods of submission are mandatory. Marked assignments shall be returned within 2 weeks of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office, KP14/203.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances or workload pressure such as having three or four major pieces of work due in a short period. (Please see the Student Workload Policy).

Penalties

2% 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

All readings are available 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

All student feedback from course evaluations is considered, 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