



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 113 What is Religion? Identity, Experience and Practice

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 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 10:00 – 11:50 HM 205

Tutorials: tba. Students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Professor Paul Morris KP14/204 463 5037 paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Aliko Kalliabetsos KP 14/203 463 5299 aliki.kalliabetsois@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room 203 (463 5299), aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. 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.

Prescription

Religion is central to society, politics and culture in our world today. We look at the role of religion in shaping current debates about vital issues in New Zealand and overseas, such as, fundamentalism and extremism, religion, politics, and economy, and religious diversity. We look at contemporary moral questions such as same-sex marriage, euthanasia and the death penalty.

Course content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner about religion through a number of selected themes across different religious traditions. 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. clearly discuss significant dimensions of religions in the contemporary world, and the ways they have been debated and discussed by scholars;
2. display religious literacy, as reflected in knowledge of basic facts about selected religious issues across a number of different traditions, and the use of the basic concepts in the academic study of religion;
3. express their views clearly both verbally and in writing;
4. apply analytical, argumentative and communication skills to scholarly tasks.

Teaching format

This course includes both lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate theoretical and descriptive materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures.

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

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 1,500 word essay (Recommended average time spent on this task 60 hours)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	12 August 2016
2	One 2,000 word essay (Recommended average time spent on this task 70 hours)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	23 September 2016
3	10 in-class quizzes (Recommended average time spent on this task 20 hours)	10%	1	Throughout the trimester
4	One in-class test (1 hour and 50 minutes duration) (Recommended average time spent on this task 50 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	11 October 2016

Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course. This fosters for students the intended linkages between the lectures, tutorials and assigned readings, and allows students to learn cooperatively.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the **assignment box** outside the Religious Studies office (KP 14 / 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 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 (including Saturdays and Sundays).
- 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 shall be available on Blackboard via the Talis system.

Recommended reading

Please see the Lecture Programme in the Appendix to this Outline (to be distributed during the first lecture, and available on Blackboard) 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 most recent evaluations for the course were very good, and confirmed that the current shape of the course is working well. 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