TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 330 RELIGION, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY: Contested Boundaries and Belonging

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: Thursday 13:10 – 15:00   MY 102
Tutorials: tba. Students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Philip Fountain   KP14/106   463 5491 philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz
Administrator: Aliki 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, Aliki 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.

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with Philip Fountain by appointment, and he will also answer emails promptly.

Prescription

This course examines religion as a locus of personal and social identity, inquiring into the force of religion in uniting and dividing communities in our modern world. The course is comparative, reflecting broadly on the ways that religion has served both to bring people together into harmonious societies, but also to antagonise groups in often violent ways. Specific case studies will serve as data for analysis. Topics that the course will cover include fundamentalism, religious conflict, and nationalism and religion.

Course content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner about religious identities and communities, as case studies in the broader problem of the study of religion in general. 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. Understand and communicate ways that religious identities are forged, maintained, and defended around the world
2. Critically and creatively engage with scholarly literature on religious communities and identities
3. Articulate nuanced arguments that draw upon and deploy empirical and theoretical knowledge about religion.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills relevant for academic research.

Teaching format

The course uses a mixture of lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate both content and ideas, that is, historical and ethnographic materials, as well as relevant theories. The tutorials allow students the opportunity to 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 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. 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 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 and workload per item	%	CLOs	Due date
1	Short Essay (1,000 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 10 hours	10%	1, 2, 3, 4	26 July
2	Research Essay (3,000 words) Recommended average time spent on this task: 60 hours	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	7 October
3	6 reading assignments (500 words each; 5% each) Recommended average time spent on each: 5 hours	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Due Friday 5pm on same week as lecture
4	One End of Class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes) Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	13 October

Submission and return of work

All essays should be submitted in electronic format on Blackboard. Marked essays shall be returned within two weeks from the date of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office (KP 14 / 203). Students should keep a copy of all their essays until it is returned.

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. Essays submitted late due to medical reasons may be required to provide a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

Set texts

There is no set textbook. All readings shall be available on Blackboard via the Talis system.

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 outstanding, 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-progess (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