This course examines Religion in Canada from both a historical and sociological perspective. To know how religion works in Canada today, we must understand how religion shaped Canadian society and culture. We will examine how religion has helped to form Canadian culture and identity and then study how, in recent times, Canadians have come to terms with secularization as well as religious and ethnic pluralism. We will look at religion and nationalism, culture and identity, as well as the major minority religious traditions in Canada: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism, and Chinese religion. Moreover, we will examine how this new religious pluralism continues to shape Canadian society by focusing on important policy areas, such as human rights, healthcare, education, and multiculturalism and citizenship.

Course web site: learn.uwaterloo.ca. Sign in using your QUEST username and password. Check the course announcement page regularly. Assignment and test announcements as well as the reading schedule will be found there.

Email policy: Use emails only for administrative purposes only and not to ask about course content or assignments. For those types of questions, please see me in person. I like to meet students one-on-one. So, for example, for an assignment, you may email me to set up an appointment or ask for an extension but not to ask a question about the assignment itself.

Important! Put the course number (RS 319) on the subject line of all emails.

Required Reading
- Paul Bramadat and David Seljak, (eds.), Religion and Ethnicity in Canada.
- Paul Bramadat and David Seljak, (eds.), Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada.
- Various online documents and distributed materials.
- Supplemental reading: Desmond Morton, A Short History of Canada. Recommended for those with limited knowledge of Canadian history.

Requirements and Evaluation

Class participation 50%. In a seminar class, your participation in the daily life of the class is essential. Your 50% grade will be based on my evaluation of the following:
Attendance. Attendance is mandatory and there are no unexcused absences allowed. The penalty for one unexcused absence is 5 marks deducted from your final mark. The penalty for a second unexcused absence is a failing grade. Absence is allowed with the presentation of a note from a doctor or approved counselor – or in exceptional cases with the permission of the instructor.

Participation in discussion. It is expected that you will come to the seminar prepared to discuss the assigned reading in detail. You should have some prepared notes outlining the important points of the reading. Always be prepared to answer questions about the assigned readings.

In addition, each student will choose two readings for which they will serve as discussion leaders. Discussion leaders will come prepared to offer a 5-minute synopsis of the argument of the reading. As discussion leader, you may want to do additional research about the topic. You should have two critical questions or comments prepared that uncover or challenge the assumptions, evidence or conclusions of the assigned reading(s).

Research Essay Reports. These will take the form of a series of short oral reports about the progress of your research essay project. In these oral reports, you should be prepared to describe your project in 2-3 minutes (the so-called “elevator-talk” version), indicating your thesis, guiding questions, theoretical framework, evidence, and preliminary conclusions. You should also indicate which sources you will be using in your research.

Seminar presentation. At the end of the term, each student will present their research as if they were participating in a conference organized by an academic society. The paper will consist of a 20-minute formal presentation followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion. The presentations—like the final papers—will be graded on content and style.

- "Content" includes such elements as originality and pertinence of the topic, choice of evidence, depth and breadth of research, coherence of argument, judgment, use of materials, etc.
- "Style" includes the usual elements of organization, clarity, grammar, syntax, and “voice”, but also your ability to engage the audience, professionalism, poise, use of handouts, A/V resources (optional), etc.

Research Essay 50%. Each student will prepare a 4000-word research paper on a topic developed in consultation with me. By October 17, you must submit an outline of your topic (150-250 words) and a bibliography. You will present your topic to the class in one of the last two classes of the term. The research paper is due on the last day of class.

Late Penalty. A late penalty of one mark per day applies to all submitted work. The late penalty can be avoided simply by contacting me before the deadline.

Always contact your instructor before the deadline if you are going to be late. With email and voicemail, there is no excuse for not contacting your professor. If you fall sick on the day of the test, contact your instructor at the first possible opportunity.

Required for all assignments:
1. Back up your work frequently. Computer and printer problems are NOT acceptable excuses for late assignments. If you have your work backed up and your printer fails, you can at least
hand it in electronically. 2. Keep an electronic or paper copy of all your work for at least 12 months after the course ends. This is a good idea for all your courses but it is a requirement for this course. Failure to follow these instructions could lead to academic penalties.

UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests

The UW Waterloo Examination Regulations (www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

Academic Integrity and Discipline

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: All students registered in courses at St. Jerome’s University are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Grievance Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 4, item 8, www.sju.ca/faculty_staff/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html (under revision).

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Appeals Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 6.4, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/examinations_grades_standings_and_appeals.html
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Every semester, I deal with a number of students who require some consideration. I encourage you to take advantage of this service.

Reading Schedule (subject to change)

Sept 12: Introduction.

Sept 19: Read the introduction to *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*. Church, sect, denomination. Public and private religion.

Sept 26: Roman Catholics (Francophone, Anglophone, and Allophone). Read *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*, chapters 2 and 3.


Oct 10: Outsiders and the mainstream: Lutherans and Evangelical Christians. Read *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*, chapters 7 and 10.


Nov 21: Seminar presentations.

Nov 28: Seminar presentations.