



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Renison University College
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo
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Renison University College Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Winter 2018

Course Code: RS229R

Course Title: RS 229R Christianity and Social Change in Canada

Class Times/Location: REN #1918

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Fletcher

Office: Founder's Building, RUC, Room#2601

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:15 or by appointment

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Course Description

The relationship between religion and society in Canada is complex. Using a historical lens, this course will explore the development of the relationship between Christianity and the broader Canadian story from pre-confederation to the present. We will explore questions such as: How has Christianity informed the development of the Canadian social and political order? How has Christianity been a force for both oppression and liberation in Canada's history? This exploration will necessitate consideration of the involvement of Christianity in matters such as racism, colonization, gender identity and roles, poverty, war and pacifism, social movement and the Canadian ethos, the creation of the social welfare state and the place of Christian identity in popular consciousness and the evolving social imaginary. Sitting this conversation at the intersection of Christianity, Canadian history and the

development of dominant and alternative cultures in the national discourse, this course explores how social change has both been propelled and slowed by the voice of Christian institutions and leadership. Theories of social change in relation to religion more broadly constructed will set the framework for the specific exploration of the involvement of Christianity in the Canadian social fabric, as will consideration of the Canadian imagination through novels and current events.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Articulate theories of social change relative to religion in society
 - Lead one discussion applying a theory of social change to a denomination in the Canadian story of Christianity
 - Submit one short paper from the discussion named above which demonstrates use of a theory of change in relation to ONE of the denomination discussed in the textbook: *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*. At least two additional sources addressing the denomination under consideration should be referenced.
- B. Demonstrate a general understanding of the relationship between Christianity and the development of the Canadian social imaginary
 - Present at least ONE CURRENT EVENT from Canadian news which reflects the discourse of Christianity in contemporary Canadian society
 - Read ONE novel by a Canadian author; present the novel to the class;
 - Write a 5 page paper (NOVEL STUDY) which demonstrates the place of religion in the Canadian social imaginary through the novel study
 - Write a 5 page commentary on the assigned text *The Church in the Canadian Era* by John Webster Grant identifying that which you found most surprising in the story of Canadian Christian history in the 20th century and why

Required Texts

- *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*. Paul Bramadat and David Seljak eds. University of Toronto Press, 2008.

- *The Church in the Canadian Era. John Webster Grant. Regent College Publishing, 2001.*
- Choose **ONE novel** by a Canadian Author from the following list of authors:
 *Margaret Atwood; Margaret Laurence; Michael Ondaatje; Stepehn Leacock; Alice Monroe; Susanna Moodie; Kit Pearson; Miriam Toews; Joshep Byden; Thomas King; Lawrence Hill; Mordecai Richler; Sinclair Ross; Rohinton Mistry; Jane Urquhart; Ann Marie MacDonald; Nino Ricci; Carol Shields; Hugh MacLennan; Dionne Brand; Linden MacIntyre; Heather O'Neill; Robertson Davies. Tracey Lindberg; Nancy Lee; Kerri Sakamoto; Jen Sookfong Lee; Eden Robinson; Shani Mootoo; Joy Kogawa.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Information on course requirements and assessments.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Current Events	As scheduled	5%
Novel Seminar	As scheduled	15%
Novel Study	By last day of classes	20%
Social Change Presentation	As scheduled	15%
Denominational Paper	By March 15	20%
Short paper on Grant Text	As scheduled	10%
Participation throughout term and in the final seminar class	Ongoing	15%
Total		100%

Notes on the various assessments

Assignment #1: Current Events

Choose a current event from the week’s media coverage related to Christianity in Canada, present it and lead a short discussion with the class (20 minutes).

Assignment #2: Novel Seminar

Present the novel you have chosen to the class. Discuss why you choose it and how it illuminates the topic of the course.

Assignment #3: Novel Study

Write a five page (1250 word) study of the novel you have chosen identifying key aspects which relate to the questions of the place of Christianity in Canadian society. Answer the SO WHAT question- eg how does the novel contribute to your understanding of the course topic.

Assignment #4: Social Change Presentation

Present your chosen chapter/denomination from the Seljak text. Teach the class with reference to the key places of impact and key issues affecting the denomination you have chosen. Invite and facilitate discussion.

Assignment #5: Denominational Paper

This short paper should identify key points from the Seljak chapter you have chosen and reflect critically on their significance to the course topic.

Assignment #6: Short Paper on Grant Text

Write a 1250 word paper which identifies those aspects of the Grant text which were most surprising to you and discuss the SO WHAT of those points- eg how does it illumine the topic we are discussing?

Assignment #7: Participation

All learners are expected to participate in the weekly classroom learning experience, prepared to engage ideas presented and lead discussions as assigned. The final week of the class we will formulate our communal wisdom as to where Christianity in Canada might make the most significant impact and or/where its greatest challenges lie in social discourse.

Course Outline

Notes on readings.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 3	Introduction to the History of Christianity in Canada and Social Change Theories	No Readings Assigned
2	Jan 10	Indigenous Communities Prior to Contact/Contact and Colonization; Film: "We Were Children"	Primary sources as posted in LEARN
3	Jan 17	Colonization and the Churches; Religion in French Canada	Primary sources as posted in LEARN

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
4	Jan 24	Confederation and Evangelical Zeal-Building for the New Canada *Denominational Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; Seljak chapters as named
5	Jan 31	World War I *Denominational Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; Seljak chapters as named
6	Feb 7	The Social Gospel and the Depression; Fundamentalism *Denominational Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; Seljak chapters as named
7	Feb 14	Socializing Canada: Gender Roles; Alternative Communities (eg Hutterite, Old Order Mennonite); Eastern Orthodoxy and Immigration *Denominational Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; Seljak chapters as named
8	Feb 21	Reading Week – No classes	
9	Feb 28	World War II and the Post War Boom Time *Novel Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; any material assigned for novel seminars
10	Mar 7	1960's, Decline and Cultural Relevancy *Novel Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; any material assigned for novel seminars
11	Mar 14	Christianity: Race and Sexualities *Novel Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; any material assigned for novel seminars
12	Mar 21	Pentecostalism and New Movements *Novel Seminars	Primary sources as posted in LEARN; any material assigned for novel seminars
13	Mar 28	Christianity and "Stewardship": Poverty, Environment *Novel	Primary sources as posted in LEARN;

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
		Seminars	
	Mar 30	Good Friday – No classes	
14	April 4	Final Class Integrating Seminar	No assigned Reading

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted by the instructor UNLESS you have cleared the late submission ahead of time with her. Even so late work is deducted at the rate of 10% on the assignment per week.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

It is expected that students will observe University of Waterloo guidelines regarding ethical academic practice and avoidance of plagiarism. Policy 71 with regard to Academic discipline applies.

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices are allowed in class, provided they do not disturb teaching or learning.

Attendance Policy

It is expected that all students will attend prepared to fully engage. If you must be absent please notify the instructor ahead of class in writing through email. Given the importance of participation to learning in this course, if you miss more than two classes, 5% per additional missed class will be deducted from your final grade.

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for completing work. See http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Academic Integrity:

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

Discipline: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own 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 Academic Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory> Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>).

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), 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 AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Intellectual Property. Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454

- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

A respectful living and learning environment for all

1. It is expected that everyone living, learning or working on the premises of Renison University College will contribute to an environment of tolerance and respect by treating others with sensitivity and civility.
2. Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of jokes, insults, gestures, gossip, or other behaviours that are meant to intimidate. Some instances of harassment are against the law in addition to Renison University College policy.
3. Discrimination is treating people differently because of their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, colour, age, creed, marital status, or other personal characteristics. The Ontario Human Rights Code considers actions and behaviours rather than intentions.
4. If you experience or witness either harassment or discrimination, you may contact the Renison University College Interim Harassment and Discrimination Officer at mmalton@uwaterloo.ca. (519-884-4404, ext. 28604).