Religion Matters Fall 2024

RS 260

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Class Schedule

Course	Meet Days	Meet Time	Location	Instructor(s)
RS 260 081 [LEC]	Online			A. Batten *abatten@uwa…*

schedule data automatically refreshed daily

Instructor & TA (Teaching Assistant) Information

Use the LEARN Course Discussions forum to communicate with your instructor and classmates. Discussion topics can be accessed in LEARN by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar.

For questions of a personal nature, please email your instructor or your TA:

Instructor: Dr. Alicia Batten
[abatten@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tbd@uwaterloo.ca)

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations (https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous)](https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous).

Course Description

> *Calendar Description for RS 260:*
>
> Societies are in a time of flux and change - so too religions. No matter one's worldview, religion offers a window into societal changes. How one studies religion matters. This course addresses complex issues such as violence, religious experience, ritual, and gender within the context of methods in the study of religion.
>
> [View requirements for RS 260](https://acal.fast.uwaterloo.ca/course/1249/RS/260) (https://acal.fast.uwaterloo.ca/course/1249/RS/260)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

Describe the traditional approaches to the study of religion;
Recognize that there are numerous and diverse ways beyond traditional approaches to the study of religion;
Describe the concept of lived religion;
Explain how the body, sexuality, and sexual orientation are connected to religion, and
Explain how one can approach the study of religion through art and architecture.

Tentative Course Schedule

Please see the Course Schedule in LEARN for complete details.

Texts / Materials

Title / Name	Notes / Comments	Required
Rodrigues, H. & Harding, J. S. (2024). Introduction to the Study of Religion. 2nd Edition. Routledge.		Yes

Options for textbook access include:

- A free e-text version of this text is available from the UW library catalogue ((EBSCOhost Ebooks), Taylor & Francis (Unlimited), 2023, 9780367407735, ISBN)
- Digital e-version may be purchased at **Vital Source** (https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/introduction-to-the-study-of-religion-hillary-p-rodrigues-john-s-v9781000985658) .
- Hard copies may be purchased through the W Store. For textbook ordering information, please contact the W Store | Course Materials + Supplies (https://wstore.uwaterloo.ca/) .

Student Assessment

Component	Value
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Module Assignments: 12% each; Students choose which 4 of 8 module assignments to submit	48%
Documentary Assignment: Individual Profiles (15%); Participation in documentary discussion (5%); Synthesis and reflection (10%).	30%
Module Quizzes: Weekly quizzes worth approx. 2% each. Students must complete 10 of the 11 quizzes (lowest quiz mark will be dropped).	22%

Assignment Screening

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

Administrative Policy

Course Policies

Late Policy

Please complete and submit your assignment by the due date listed in the Course Schedule (https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=532550&type=content&rcode=uWaterloo-2849289) . Late assignments will be docked 0.5 marks per day, for up to five business days, when assignments will no longer be accepted. Further, students should be aware that all submissions to any Dropbox are timestamped. Therefore, regardless of the Dropbox that the assignment has been submitted to, it will be considered late if the timestamp is after the due date.

There are no make-up assignments for late or missed assignments in this course.

Students who require an extension must speak to the instructor **before** an assignment is due and provide a rationale for the extension. The instructor reserves the right to grant or not grant the extension. Should a student miss an assignment, a medical note or verifiable information must be provided. Please see the University Policies (https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=532550&type=content&rcode=uWaterloo-2849294) page for more information on Submission Times and Accommodation Due to Illness.

Generative AI

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as close reading, critical thinking, and clear writing. Therefore, the use of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of Policy 71 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage (ICAI (https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf) , n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the

submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- [Student Success Office](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/resources) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-0/services-undergraduate-students) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/students) for documented accommodations
- [Library](https://uwaterloo.ca/library/research-supports/quick-start-guide) for research-based assignments

Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo

[Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-33) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), "The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible." This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6

Accommodating religious, creed, and spiritual observances

The University of Waterloo has a duty to [accommodate religious, spiritual, and other creed-based beliefs and practices](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/policy/SkiPsB9Vp) under the Ontario Human Rights Commission (2015)

Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed (https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-creed) . Students may seek accommodations for missed course components on religious, spiritual, or other creed grounds. Students can complete the Religious Observance Self-Declaration Form in Quest, which will inform their instructors of the potential conflict for certain dates. Students must consult with their instructor(s) within two weeks of the announcement of the due date or scheduled examination date for which academic accommodation is being sought. The self-declaration form for short-term absences may also be used by students requiring an absence of two days or less during the Formal Lecture Period.

Anti-Racism Statement

The University of Waterloo does not tolerate racism or any other form of discrimination and expects campus community members to contribute to a culture where all members feel safe and valued. Any member of the campus community who has experienced racism or discrimination at the University is encouraged to review available processes for addressing their concerns under Policy 33 – Ethical Behaviour and to seek guidance from the Equity Office via email at equity@uwaterloo.ca (https://uwaterloo.ca/presidents-anti-racism-taskforce/part-report/equity@uwaterloo.ca) or through their website (https://uwaterloo.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion-anti-racism/)

Regardless of the process used to declare an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact their instructor within 24 hours of the date of any missed course component so that the instructor can determine how to accommodate the missed work.

Absences due to religious, creed, and spiritual observances

Beginning Fall 2024, students can submit a Religious Observance Self-Declaration Form in Quest. This form allows the student to register dates of potential conflicts with coursework. Students are expected to record their absence within two weeks of announcement of the due date or scheduled examination date for which academic accommodation is being sought. Submission through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence.

Absences due to verified illness or extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement)

For absences due to illness that are not pandemic-related, students need to obtain a Verification of Illness Form (https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/health-services/student-medical-clinic/verification-illness-services) (VIF) that is completed and signed by a healthcare practitioner. The VIF indicates the determination by a care provider of the degree of incapacitation for a given period. The VIF should then be submitted by the student to the Absence Verification System (https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/) for processing. Submission through the Absence Verification System, once approved, will notify your instructors of your

absence. Students <u>should not</u> submit their VIF or any other medical documentation to your instructors, teaching assistants, or other course personnel.

For absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement, serious family illness), students submit [a request for absence due to extenuating circumstances (https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other) to the [Absence Verification System (https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/)](https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/) for processing. Students use the form to submit supporting documentation, which will be considered in a comparable manner to a VIF. Official documentation is necessary before any action can be taken. Examples are plane/train/bus tickets, court documents, police reports, death certificates/obituaries/letters from funeral directors.

Self-declared absences due to COVID-related illness

Students can [self-declare (https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students)](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students) an absence on Quest due to COVID-related illness or a requirement to self-isolate. A self-declared COVID absence covers up to 10 days and no documentation is required. No in-person course activity is permitted during the period of a self-declared COVID absence. Participation in on-line components is permitted but should not be required if the student notifies the instructor that they are too ill to participate in the online work. Submitting the self-declaration through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence.

Self-declared short-term absences for any reason

Students can [self-declare (https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students)](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students) one short-term absence per term on Quest for any reason. A short-term absence covers two calendar days, and <u>no documentation is required</u>. The student has only one self-declared short- term absence per term and this absence can only be used during the formal lecture period. Self-declared absences cannot be applied to Laboratory (LAB) and Clinic (CLN) course components. Submitting the self-declaration through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);

- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Mental Health Support

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

On campus supports

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health and counselling if they are needed. For counselling (individual or group) reach out to Campus Wellness and Counselling Services. (https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services) Counselling Services strives to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Other on-campus supports

- MATES (https://wusa.ca/services/uw-mates) : one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- Download the WatSafe app (https://uwaterloo.ca/watsafe/) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

- [Empower Me](https://uwaterloo.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5194df42b6fc63ac2f0875eb&id=6859501915&e=d4e4205e24) : to access create an account on the Dialogue mobile app or on the web at www.studentcare.ca/dialogue
- [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Centre](https://uwaterloo.ca/sexual-violence-prevention-response-office/) - supports all members of the University of Waterloo campus community who have experienced or been impacted by sexual violence.

Off campus supports

- [Good2Talk](https://good2talk.ca/) : Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300
- [St. Mary's Hospital](https://uwaterloo.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5194df42b6fc63ac2f0875eb&id=f9ffc07602&e=d4e4205e24) - 519-744-3311
- [Here 24/7](https://here247.ca/) : Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline: a 24/7 urgent mental health care three-digit helpline
- [OK2BME](https://ok2bme.ca/) : set of support services for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual (@SLGBTQIA+) and questioning kids, teens, adults, and their families in Waterloo Region. Phone: 519-884-0000 or e-mail ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca
- [Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region](http://www.sascwr.org/) - offers individual counselling to people of all genders, 16+ who have been sexually assaulted at any point in their lives. As well as short-term support for family members or friends of sexual assault survivors. Also, information and referrals

More information about resources and supports for students can be found online in on the [Faculty of Arts Student Support](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/) page.

Pronouns and chosen or preferred first name

Students can verify their chosen or preferred first name by logging into [WatIAM](https://idm.uwaterloo.ca/watiam/) . Your chosen or preferred first name listed in WatIAM will be used across campus (e.g., in LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents, such as diplomas and transcripts.

Students can view and change their pronouns in [Quest](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i-view-or-update-my-personal-)

information) . Should you choose to include your pronouns in Quest, your pronouns will be accessible by instructors, advisors, and employees with access to Quest. If no pronoun is added, the field in Quest will remain blank.

University Policy

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. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their 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/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) . When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) for more information.] 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) . For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) .

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

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services (https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) , located in Needles Hall, Room 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

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