

United College at the University of Waterloo

Department of Religious Studies

RS110 Religions of the West

W 2023

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:50am, Alumni Hall (UTD/STP 201A)

"[T]here is no clear dividing line between East and West...For those of us living in the twenty-first century, the biggest problem with the East-West division is that all [religions]...may be found anywhere in the world."

- Amir Hussain and Roy C. Amore 2019, 22

Land Acknowledgement

*This course is taking place on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.*

Office Hours: By appointment in person or over Zoom

Note: Include "RS110" in the subject line of your email.

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the history, beliefs, practices, and diverse communities of the Judaic, Christian, Islamic, and Indigenous Traditions. The Canadian context of each of these traditions will be examined in addition to a general introduction to the study of religion.

Course Objectives

By attending classes regularly, reading the assigned text chapters, and participating in the assessments the students will achieve four main learning outcomes: a better understanding of how and why we study religion and the basic tenets, practices, communities, historical development and the Canadian Context of the Judaic, Christian, Islamic, and Canadian Indigenous traditions.

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

- A. List the historical development, core tenets, practices, sacred spaces, various communities, and current issues facing each of the four religious groups.
  - In preparing for the Quizzes; as well as the final research paper.
- B. Describe the challenges with defining religion, the complexities of religion and culture, theological vs. secular studies, and the non-monolithic nature of religious communities.
  - In preparing for Quiz One and Reflection One

- C. Explain the various terms encountered throughout the course (i.e. ontology, epistemology, humanism, tanakh, soteriological, hijrah, and potlatch).
  - In preparing for Quiz One, Two, Three, and Four
- D. Research and write a research paper (selecting a topic, using the library to research sources, taking notes, organizing citations, writing a draft, reviewing spelling, grammar, and paragraph structure, completing a final draft, title page, and Works Cited page)
  - In preparing the final research paper

Required Text (e-book)

Jakobsh, Doris (ed.). *World Religions: Canadian Perspectives (Western Traditions)*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd. 2013.

Course Assessment

Assessment	Date of Assessment	Weighting
Quiz One (Studying Religion & Judaic Traditions)	February 2nd	15%
Quiz Two (Christian Traditions)	February 16th	15%
Quiz Three (Islamic Traditions)	March 16th	15%
Quiz Four (Indigenous Traditions)	April 6th	15%
Reflection Paper	February 24th - March 2nd	15%
Research Paper	April 6th - April 17th	25%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

*Quiz One*

A combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions based on the Introductory, Studying Religion, and Judaic lectures from January 10 to January 31.

*Quiz Two*

A combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions based on the Christian tradition lectures from February 2 - February 16.

*Quiz Three*

A combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions based on the Islamic tradition lectures from February 28 - March 14.

*Quiz Four*

A combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions based on the Indigenous tradition lectures from March 21 - April 4.

Reflection Paper

The topic for the Reflection Paper will be provided on Tuesday February 14th.

Format:

- Body = 1-2 pages double spaced in Times New Roman/Calibri/Arial 12 font (400-600 words)
- Include title page, body of the reflection, and Works Cited page (MLA formatting)
- In-text citations in the following formatting (Author's last name: date of publication, page #)

#### Submission Guidelines:

- after checking spelling, grammar, and citations submit your reflection to the Learn Dropbox
- reflection is due between February 24th and March 2nd.

#### Research Paper

The Research Paper topics for consideration will be provided on Tuesday March 21st.

Each student will be expected to select one of the provided research topics. Students may also propose an area of research that engages with an aspect of the Judaic, Christian, or Islamic traditions.

#### Format:

- Body = 4-5 pages double spaced Times New Roman/Calibri/Arial 12 font (1000-1300 words)
- Include title page, body of the text, and Works Cited page (MLA formatting)

#### Submission Guidelines:

- after checking spelling, grammar, and citations submit your research paper to the Dropbox
- the research paper is due between April 6th - April 17th.

#### Final Exam

There is no final exam for the W2023 offering of RS110

#### Late Work

Students are expected to make every effort to submit their work on time. Late assignments may be submitted up to 1 week past the initial due date; however, a 2.5% per day late penalty will be applied (including weekends).

#### Electronic Device Policy

Laptops and electronic devices may be utilized in class for the purpose of note taking; however, all phones must be turned off or have the volume off during class. If you wish to make a call, check to see who called, or receive a call, then please step out of the classroom to do so. Also take your internet explorations, status updates, viewing of party pictures, etc. out into the hallway. You are in class for 80 minutes to learn, don't distract others around you who have come to class to engage with the materials.

#### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes. Come to lectures and tutorials prepared to discuss the relevant materials for that class. Seek clarification for any materials that you are uncertain about during office hours. It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they are familiar with the materials that were covered should you miss a class due to illness.

Documentation must be obtained if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities as a full time student (i.e. away from classes for over a week) or miss a deadline or test because of illness or

serious life situation. The documentation should include the date(s) that you are unable to participate in your full-time studies and an estimated date that the doctor expects you will be able to resume your studies. Accepted documentation: doctor's note – UW verification form (see below), hospital admission, police report, and funeral director's note.

#### UW POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS AND MISSED TESTS

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations state that:

1. A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on "University of Waterloo Verification of Illness" form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services. 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.
2. 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.
3. Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.
4. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances>

[University of Waterloo Policies](#)

**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).

*Academic Integrity:* To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

*Discipline:* A student is 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. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

*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](#). 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 is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

*Note for Students with Disabilities:* The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (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 AS office 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, do not wish to use turnitin.com, in which case alternative submission instructions and dates will be provided. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

#### Course Outline / Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings to be completed before class</b>
10Jan23		Introduction to the Study of Religion	
12Jan23		Studying Religion	pp. 1-28
17Jan23		Judaic Tradition - beliefs	pp. 31-40 to "Chosenness"
19Jan23		Judaic Tradition - doctrine and ancient history	pp. 40-51 to "Second Temple"
24Jan23		Judaic Tradition - history and adaptations	pp. 51-60 to "The Modern Period"
26Jan23		Judaic Tradition - modernity, communities, and ritual practices	pp. 60-77 to "Identity"
31Jan23		Judaic Tradition - diversity and the Canadian context	pp. 77-84
2Feb23	<b>Quiz 1</b>	Christianity - introduction	Prepare for Q1
7Feb23		Christianity - beliefs and doctrine Writing Reflections - Reflection One Topic Assignment	pp. 89-103 to "Christian Apologists"
9Feb23		Christianity - developments and communities	pp. 103-118 to "Spiritual Practices"
14Feb23		Christianity - practices	pp. 118-132 to "Identity"
16Feb23	<b>Quiz 2</b>	Christianity - diversity and the Canadian context	pp. 132-145
	<b>READING WEEK &amp;</b>	<b>HAPPY READING!!</b>	
28Feb23		Islam - introduction	Prepare for Q2
2Mar23	Last Day to Submit Reflection One to the Learn Dropbox	Islam - beliefs and doctrines	pp. 151-162 to "Islamic Civilizations"
7Mar23		Islam - civilizations and communities	pp. 162-173 to "Culture and Practice"
9Mar23		Islam - practices	pp. 173-187 to "The Life Cycle"

Date	Assessment	Topic	Readings to be completed before class
14Mar23		Islam - diversity and the Canadian context	pp. 187-198
16Mar23	<b>Quiz 3</b>	Research Project explained	Prepare for Q3
21Mar23		Indigenous Traditions - beliefs	pp. 203-207 to "History and Development"
23Mar23		Indigenous Traditions - development and colonization	pp. 207-213 to "Spiritual Practices"
28Mar23		Indigenous Traditions - practices	pp. 213-224 to "Religious Diversity"
30Mar23		Indigenous Traditions - diversity and the Canadian context	pp. 224-235
4Apr23		Indigenous Traditions - the Truth and Reconciliation tradition, re-claiming, and decolonization	
6Apr23	<b>Quiz 4</b>	Conclusion	Prepare for Q4
6Apr 23 - 17Apr23	Research Paper Submitted to the Learn Drop Box During This Week.		

