

University of Waterloo - United College
RS 110 Religions of the West – Winter 2024
Online/Remote/Asynchronous Delivery

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Office Hours: by email and appointment

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the three main western religions traditions, namely Judaism, Christianity and Islam. As an introductory course, each religion will be examined in terms of its historical origins, the development of its belief systems, ensuing practices, religious institutions and social, personal and cultural expressions.

Course Requirements

As a minimum requirement each student is expected to listen to the recorded lectures and be prepared to do so by having read all the relevant chapters in the textbook/reading assignment. Especially in an online delivery mode, it is important for your own intellectual enhancement that you engage in attentive listening and an open mind. The specific grading requirements are as follows:

Marking Scheme

3 Tests (one on each of the three religions; 3x25%)	75%
1 Critical Reflection on Learning Achievement	25%

Textbooks (Hardcopy or Electronic)

This is the textbook of choice:

Willard G. Oxtoby, Amir Hussain and Roy C. Amore (eds), *World Religions. Western Traditions*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2019, 5th edition (4th edition is also acceptable).

Also Acceptable as Textbooks:

Theodore Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the West*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, Prentice Hall, third edition, 2006.

Doris R. Jakobsh, *World Religions. Canadian Perspectives. Western Traditions*. Toronto: Nelson 2013.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo 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 his/her 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 Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [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 his/her 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 he/she has 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.

A Note from UW Policies to All Students

“It is your responsibility: Studying at the post-secondary level is very different from what you may be accustomed to in high school. Academic integrity (AI) is taken very seriously and it is your responsibility as a student to know, understand, and apply UW policy. Violations can have serious consequences, affecting your grades, academic standing, and future career. Take the time to know what you need to do and how to avoid costly errors. Ignorance is **not** considered a viable excuse.”

Tentative Class and Reading Schedule
(Eastern Standard Time)

Week	Module	Readings and Other Assigned Material	Activities and Assignments	Start Date	End/Due Date	Weight (%)
2024						
Week 1 8 Jan	Module 00: Introduction					
	Module 01: Origin, Biblical Judaism	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions</i> , ed. Hussain, Amore and Oxtoby. Oxford, 5 th ed., Chapter on Judaism, pp. 82-98 Genesis 1-3, 12; Exodus 12-15; 20; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Psalm 137				
Week 2 15 Jan	Module 02: Post-Biblical Judaism	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions</i> , Chapter on Judaism, pp. 98-112				
Week 3 22 Jan	Module 03: Medieval Judaism	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions</i> , Chapter on Judaism, 112-122				

Week 4 29 Jan	Module 04: Modern Judaism	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Judaism, 122- 159 Exodus 1-27	Test One - Judaism	Test available from Thursday, 1 February 2024 at 6:00 AM	Test closes on Friday, 2 Feb 2024 at 11:55 PM	25%
Week 5 5 Feb	Module 05: Origin of Christianity: Jesus and Paul	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Christianity, pp. 162-170 Matthew 5-7; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 4:14-22; Matthew 26-28				
Week 6 12 Feb	Module 06: The Early Church	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Christianity, pp. 170-203				
WEEK 7 19 FEB	READING	WEEK	NO CLASSES			
Week 8 26 Feb	Module 07: The Reformation	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Christianity, pp. 203-213				

Week 9 4 March	Module 08: Modern Christianity	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Christianity, pp. 213-241	Test Two - Christianity	Test available from Thursday, 7 March 2024 6:00 AM	Test closes on Friday, 8 March 2024 at 11:55 PM	25%
Week 10 11 March	Module 09: Origins of Islam	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Islam, pp. 244-258				
Week 11 18 March	Module 10: Islamic Belief	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Islam, 258-270 Quran, Surahs 1-3				
Week 12 25 March	Module 11: Classical Period	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Islam, pp. 270-290				
Week 13 1 April	Module 12: Modern Period	<i>World Religions. Western Traditions,</i> Chapter on Islam, pp. 290-311	Test Three - Islam	Test available from Thursday, 4 April 2024 at 6:00 AM	Test closes on Friday, 5 April 2024 at 6 PM	25%
			Critical Reflection		Due: Friday, 29 March 2024 at 11:55pm	25%

