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 Hal Simand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach, and is centralized within the work of our Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and the University of Waterloo’s Office of Indigenous Relations.

Fall 2022

Course Code: RS/SDS 242
Course Title: Religious Diversity and Social Development

Class Times/Location: M/W 10:00-11:20, REN 0402

Instructor: Douglas E. Cowan
Office: REN 315 (ask me for directions, though see below)
Office Phone: 519-884-4404 (x28607—very rarely checked)
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday (11:30 am-12:30 pm, sort of).
While I will be on campus during these times, I would prefer to consult with students virtually. Besides being a more Covid-conscious option for everyone, this allows me (a) to be more flexible in terms of your schedule, and (b) to give you more direct attention in terms of particular questions and issues that you may have.

Email: doug.cowan@uwaterloo.ca
(This is always the best way to reach me. Please note that while I will make every effort to respond within a few hours during the week—within reason, of course—I do not read university email on the weekends or on holidays.)

Cross-listed course
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, an SDS/RS cross-list will count in an SDS major’s average, even if the course was taken under the Religious Studies rubric.
Course Description
This course explores the interrelationship of religious diversity, multiculturalism, and attitudes toward social issues. Religious traditions and beliefs contribute both positively and negatively to social development. In this course, we will explore not only when we mean when we say ‘religion,’ but also how we understand concepts of ‘diversity’ and ‘social development’ in terms of the most powerful meaning-making force in human history. As we will discover, this often means very different things to different people.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

A. Identify aspects and influences of religious diversity as exemplified through various issues, concerns, and problems of social development, both in Canada and globally.
B. Describe how various religious groups approach specific issues of social development, civil liberties, and human rights, and how those stances are related to particular religious worldviews.
C. Critically analyse and explain social development issues in terms of the religious dimensions involved.

Required Text
There is no required textbook that you need to purchase for this class. (You’re welcome.)

Class Materials Available on LEARN
Required readings, videos, and other material will be available on or through LEARN as necessary. When a reading or a video is linked in LEARN for viewing outside of class, it is your responsibility to access it. For readings, I definitely recommend that, at the very least, you download them to your device rather than read them online. You will benefit from some materials even more if you print them out. For videos, please ensure you have watched them before the class indicated. Slide decks used to support lectures will be available on LEARN after the class, but it is important to remember that these will not and cannot replace class attendance. (If there is a discrepancy between a slide deck and the syllabus, the syllabus takes precedence.)

Course Requirements and Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>After weeks 4, 8, 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Response #1</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Response #2</td>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Response #3</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Response #4</td>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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I will go over all course requirements in much more detail in class, but generally...
Discussion Participation (20%)

Discussion participation is crucial to success in this course. It’s simply a fact that active engagement leads to more effective learning. That just makes sense. In addition to in-class participation, each student has been placed into one of a number of discussion groups on LEARN.

For each week, I will post discussion prompts related to readings, viewings, lectures, or class interactions. For each of these prompts, you are required to contribute at least one initial post, and at least two response posts to your group. The prompts are designed to stimulate your thinking, not simply answered with “I agree” or “I disagree”-type responses. In all cases, you must tell your group (and me) why you think what you do. That is, a response that says not much more than “I agree” or “I disagree” is not an acceptable level of participation. This portion of the course supplements in-class discussion, so it should be taken with the same level of seriousness. Always think about how your own contributions and responses work to further the topic of discussion. I evaluate posts and threads for both quality and quantity.

It is important to keep up with class discussion participation. If students consistently post either their initial contributions or their responses at the last moment, this will be considered inadequate for participation. If students only post initially, but make no effort to respond to their group-mates, this too will be considered insufficient. Lastly, students may not ‘do all the discussions at the same time’—either ahead of the module or at the end of the semester. Obviously, this defeats the purpose of the assignment. I will be assigning marks out of 5 for each of the three months of the course, reserving a further 5 for overall evaluation at the end of the semester.

Video Reflection and Response (1x15%/2x20%/1x25%)

These are written assignments, for which you should follow the written submission guidelines below. They constitute the bulk of the written work for the semester, but please note that these are NOT review assignments; that is, whether you liked a video or not is not germane. Rather, put generally, I expect that you will (a) reflect on the video as a whole, and (b) identify one or two key issues or questions raised, then (c) write a response paper in which you discuss these in terms of the concepts and ideas we explore in class, focusing on how religion influences the issue(s)—either positively, negatively, or both. Put differently, in terms of religion and social development, what do you think is at stake here, how it that reflected in the story the video tells, and, most importantly, why do you think that?

The first reflection paper will be 1200-1500 words, the second two 1500-1800 words, and the last one 2000-2400 words. N.b., In each case, the minimums are hard limits while the maximums are suggested limits.

Obviously, the hypothesis is that you are building your skills at analysis and communication throughout the semester, as well as becoming familiar with various course concepts. I will go over this more carefully in class, and you should consult the “Hints and Tips on Writing Well” part of the “Assignments” slide deck.
**Course Outline**

Note: This is a general framework for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 12-14</td>
<td>Religion and Religious Diversity: Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 19-21</td>
<td>Religion and Religious Diversity: Part 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 26-28</td>
<td>Religious Diversity and Social Development</td>
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<td>*Sept 30: Reflection #1 due</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 3-5</td>
<td>Women, Religion, and Social Development</td>
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<td>Oct 10-14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday/Reading Week</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 17-19</td>
<td>Religion, Development, and Social Marginalization</td>
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<td>*Oct 21: Reflection #2 due</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 24-26</td>
<td>Religion, Development, and Cultural Appropriation</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 31-Nov 2</td>
<td>Religion, Development, and Freedom of Expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 7-9</td>
<td>Religion, Diversity, and Morality</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 14-16</td>
<td>Religion, Development, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>*Nov 18: Reflection #3 due</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 21-23</td>
<td>Religion, Diversity, and the Problem of Non-belief</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 28-30</td>
<td>Catch-up days</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Catch Up and Final Discussions</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>*Dec 6: Reflection #4</td>
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**Late or Incomplete Work**

Assignments turned in past the due date will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day late, including the day on which you turn it in. If a paper is due on Friday and you turn it in Sunday, that is a 20% penalty. With the exception of drafts, turn in all assignments through the appropriate LEARN Dropbox; do not simply email them to me. I only grant extensions for reasons of medical and family emergency, and documentation is required in both instances. See the University of Waterloo guidelines on Covid-19 to assist you in this. Extensions beyond the end-of-semester require that you complete Request for Incomplete form, available at the Renison Registrar’s Office, and supporting documentation may be required.

**Policy on Plagiarism**

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”...

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”
For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

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 at uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory. Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

Bottom line? Do your own work.

Electronic Device Policy
Students who choose to use electronic devices to support their learning may do so provided that the individuals in the class are not disturbed or prohibited from their own learning. Electronic devices should be used for the purposes of supplementing the learning experience and focus on topics being discussed in class. Phones should be kept on silent during the class.

Attendance Policy
I expect that everyone will be in class every day. It is simply the only way to do well in a course such as this. If you are aware of an upcoming absence, it’s your responsibility to let me know in advance so we can make arrangements for that.

Communication Policy
Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Please note that once you have successfully completed this course, we may email you about subsequent courses in this subject offered in future terms. If you do not want to be notified about subsequent courses, please email cls@uwaterloo.ca.

Final Examination Policy
There is NO final examination in this course. (Again, you’re welcome.)

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances
The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities
Academic Integrity: 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 at uwaterloo.ca/academic-
integrity and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage at uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity website at 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 professor or academic advisor.

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 the 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, or Academic Advisor, 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.

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** The website can be found at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

AccessAbility Services is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and 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.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.
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 / 519-888-4096
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- **Health Services** – Student Medical Clinic: 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
- **Empower Me**: Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- **Grand River Hospital**: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- **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. Email: ok2bme@kwcounselling.com Phone: 519-884-0000

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
Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison’s external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experiences in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison’s Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse policy.