

**College of the Humanities
Religion and Public Life: RELI 5801F
Seminar in the Discipline**

Professor: Richard Mann
Office: Paterson Hall 2A51
Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 AM
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Course Objectives: This seminar has three main objectives.

The first is to begin the process of linking students with potential supervisors and major research paper topics. A number of sessions have been organized where Religion faculty as well as other faculty members from across campus will introduce themselves, their research and that of others from their fields engaged in 'Religion and Public Life'. It is hoped that through this process you will gain a clear sense of the range of potential major research paper topic areas available to you, and an introduction to the faculty member who might serve as your primary or secondary supervisor for the research paper.

The second is to function as a 'pro-seminar'. As such, the course considers the broader boundaries of 'Religion and Public Life' and the professional duties carried out by graduate students. We will engage in discussions on pragmatic issues affecting you as graduate students both in terms of your studies and your teaching assistantships. Discussions and guest lecturers will help you to navigate such professional matters as grading essays, writing a proposal for grants, and understanding academic opportunities available to graduates of the program.

The third is to introduce you to the resources, strategies and assistance needed to successfully complete the MA. Here the focus will be on developing a 'research toolbox' to ensure that all students are familiar with the electronic and print resources available at Carleton, as well as developing research strategies. This section of the course will also ensure that students understand the citation style employed in this program.

Evaluation

This is a pass or fail course – no letter grade is submitted only a 'P' or an 'F' will appear on your transcript.

To obtain a 'pass' you are expected to attend each class and fully participate in class discussion. If you are ill or miss a class due to another reason (such as a death in your family) you must provide me with acceptable written documentation accounting for the absence. If you are absent without an acceptable excuse for two classes you will receive a 'fail' in this course.

Each student must also act as the respondent to one of the guest speakers in order to pass the course. The details of the duties of a respondent will be discussed in the first class.

Each student must also present on their tentative ideas for their major research paper in order to pass the course.

Tentative Schedule – This schedule is tentative in that a number of professors have agreed to speak to the class, but have yet (as of August 17) to provide a firm title and assigned reading for their talk. I have indicated in the schedule only those who have provided a concrete date for their visit. The other visits will be set and the schedule revised by the first class. Readings will also be assigned by the visiting professors and will also be announced in the first class.

Sept 10

Introduction, discussion of the syllabus, course and program objectives and deadlines

Sept 17

11:30-1:00 guest speaker: Dr. Kim Stratton (Religion Program)

Title of talk: TBA

Assigned Readings: TBA

1:00-2:30 the MA's style guide – the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) – a review of citation and documentation styles from the 16th edition of the CMS

Sept 24

11:30-1:00 guest speakers: Leslie MacDonald-Hicks

Title of Talk: Ethics Clearance at Carleton University

Assigned Readings: None

1:00-2:30 guest speakers: Dr. Richard Mann

Title of Talk: Secularism in Canada and India

Assigned Readings: TBA

Oct 1

11:30-1:00 guest speaker: Dr. Aisha Geissinger

Title of Talk: “Past, yet forever present? Gender, religious history and public life”

Assigned readings: Geissinger, Aisha. “A’isha bint Abi Bakr and her Contributions to the Formation of the Islamic Tradition.” *Religion Compass* 5.1 (2011): 37-49.

1:00-2:30 guest speaker Dr. Zeba Crook (Religion Program)

Title of talk: "Religion and Public Life in Mediterranean Antiquity"

Assigned Readings: "History, Memory, and the Invention of Tradition," which is chapter 3 from Judith Lieu, *Christian Identity in the Jewish and Graeco-Roman World* (OUP, 2004)

Oct 15

11:30-1:00 Library Research Visit

1:00-2:30 Library Research Visit

Oct 22

11:30-1:00 guest speaker Dr. Johannes Wolfart (Religion Program)

Title of Talk: TBA

Assigned Reading: TBA

1:00-2:30 guest speaker Dr. Tom Sherwood

Title of talk: TBA

Assigned readings: TBA

Oct 29

11:30-1:00 a discussion of academic associations, conferences and graduate journals, preparing conference panels and papers, and the publication process

1:00-2:30 guest speaker TBA

Title of talk: TBA

Assigned Readings: TBA

Nov 5

11:30-1:00 guest speaker TBA

1:00-2:30 developing your 'research toolbox'

Nov 12

11:30-1:00 guest speaker TBA

1:00-2:30 Dr. James Casteel (Religion Program and History)

Title of talk: "Religion, Nation, Diaspora in Historical perspective"

Assigned readings: Green, Abigail. "Nationalism and the 'Jewish International': Religious Internationalism in Europe and the Middle East c. 1840-c. 1880." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50, no. 2 (2008): 535–558.

Kobrin, Rebecca. "Rewriting the Diaspora." *Jewish Social Studies* 12, no. 3 (2006): 1–38.

Nov 19

11:30-1:00 student presentations – developing ideas for a research paper

1:00-2:30 guest speaker TBA

Title of talk: TBA

Assigned Readings: TBA

Nov 26

11:30-1:00 guest speaker TBA

1:00-2:30 student presentations – developing ideas for a research paper

Dec 3

11:30-1:00 reflections on your TA experiences

1:00-2:30 student presentations – developing ideas for a research paper

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library