

Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam RELI 1710A (Summer 2015)

**Religious Studies
College of Humanities**

Monday + Wednesday 6:00-9:00pm; SA 416

Professor Z.A. Crook

Paterson Hall 2a43

Drop-in Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00-5:30pm. Appointments can also be made outside of these drop-in hours.

Email: zeba.crook@gmail.com

Course Objective

This course presumes no previous knowledge about Judaism, Christianity, or Islam, but it does presuppose a burning curiosity and a high motivation to learn about these three major religions, and an openness to learn in a non-judgmental way about how different people live their lives religiously. We will focus on the historical development, the beliefs, and the practices of each religion. Our approach will never be confessional, but historical and critical and above all respectful. You should never feel pressured to change your religious perspective, nor should you pressure each other to do so.

Evaluation

Midterm Exam – 30% (covering **History material only**; May 25, in class).

Living Religion Assignment – 30% (2-3 pages; due **June 3**; details below)

Final Exam – 40% (during exam schedule; details below).

Note: Don't plagiarize any part of your paper, not even one wee sentence. Don't cheat on the exams, not even on one tough question. Okay? Thanks.

Texts

Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the West*, 3rd edition (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2001) (also on reserve at the library – two hour loan).

If buying this book second-hand, be sure that you are buying the 3rd edition of the book.

Weekly Topics and Due Dates

- The on-line version of the syllabus (see web address above) has PowerPoint slides for each lecture available. You should print them out in order to watch them with the lecture or bring them to class with you.

Genesis

May 4	Introduction to the Course
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History

May 6, May 11, May 13, May 18 (No class!) May 20	Judaism: History (Ludwig, Ch. 6) Christianity: History (Ludwig, Ch. 9) Islam: History (Ludwig, Ch. 12)
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Scriptures, Beliefs, and Theology

May 25	<i>History Midterm (No lecture)</i>
May 27	Judaism: Beliefs (Ludwig, Ch. 7)
June 1	No Class (Conference)
June 3	Christianity: Beliefs (Ludwig, Ch. 10)
June 8	Islam: Beliefs (Ludwig, Ch. 13)

Praxis and Holy Days

June 10, June 15	Judaism: Practices and Observances (Ludwig, Ch. 8) Christianity: Practices and Observances (Ludwig, Ch. 11) Islam: Practices and Observances (Ludwig, Ch. 14)
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Email Communication

- Carleton's Connect Mail is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. All communications sent by Connect are official, and you are expected to get them. It is not an option to claim you did not get some announcement or request because you have another email address. You can configure your connect account to forward university emails to another address, but you must be reachable through your Connect account. Also, any communication between you and me involving your personal information (like grades) must originate from a Connect account (FIPPA).

Living Religion Assignment (Due June 3; 30% of final mark)

- 2 pages (double-spaced, single-sided, standard font and margins, and absolutely no longer than 2 pages)
- Choose **ONLY ONE** religion for which to do the assignment. Do not do more than one assignment, and do not combine religions.

- **Judaism: Living an Orthodox Sabbath**
 - **Choose any sundown Friday – sundown Saturday before the due date**
 - Things you should try NOT to do:
 - not turn a light, but you can leave certain lights on (choose carefully), or use candles (with caution!)
 - no tearing toilet paper (torn in advance)
 - no cooking food (but if you have a crock pot with food in it you can leave it on, but don't burn your house down!)
 - no driving
 - no doing dishes, house cleaning, or other chores
 - no buying anything (you cannot use money at all)
 - no listening to radio, no TV, no use of computer, iPod, telephone, cell phone
 - no riding bikes or other recreational activities
 - you can sing, but can't play an musical instrument
 - no homework, but non-work reading is okay (as long as you don't take notes or write)
 - Things you should try to do:
 - whatever you eat, try to eat in a conservative kosher manner, avoiding the obvious things (pork, shellfish, mixing milk and meat in the same meal, bugs, and food sacrificed to idols), but you do not have to ensure the rest of your food is kosher or worry about using two sets of dishes for milk and meat.
 - eat Sabbath supper with family and friends (both if possible)
 - sit, talk, laugh, celebrate, spend "quality" time with your significant other
 - On Saturday, eat whenever you normally would (this is not a fast), visit with friends who live within walking distance, go to a park, go for a short walk, socialise, nap, read a book, relax, reflect, meditate, think about the world, think about the environment and your effect on it.
 - Say good bye to the Sabbath at sundown
 - **Reflection Questions:** In your reflection
 - consider how you found Sabbath observance: freeing? a burden?
 - consider what it was like to limit consumption. How much do we take for granted in our world? How much do we consume (energy, food) in a day? Do we really need everything we consume?

- **Christianity: Living the Sermon on the Mount for Three days**
 - Choose any three consecutive days before the due date
 - Ways to live according the sermon on the mount (somewhat tongue-in-cheek):
 - Avoid the appearance of wealth and power (Matt 5:5)
 - Be just and merciful in all things (5:6-7)
 - Think pure thoughts (5:8)
 - Actively find ways to foster peace (5:9)
 - DON'T try to get beat up (Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you)
 - Do not be angry with or insult others in any way (5:22-24)
 - If you have wronged someone recently, set things right (5:25-26)
 - Do not look at another person with lust (5:27)
 - DON'T blind or maim yourself (5:29-30)
 - Do not break up with anyone in this time (5:31-32)
 - Turn the other cheek, if anything is asked of you, give it, give to everyone who begs from you (5:39-42; 6:2)
 - Love your enemies (5:44-48)
 - Avoid worrying about things you cannot control (5:25-34)
 - Don't judge others (7:1)
 - Don't be hypocritical (7:2-5)
 - Treat others as you would like to be treated (7:12)
 - **Reflection Questions:**
 - Christians often seek to do what Jesus would do. Taking the Sermon on the Mount as an example of what Jesus would do, what do you think?
 - Was the Sermon on the Mount intended to be a *practical* guide to daily living for regular people, or do you think it set up an impossible ideal?
- **Islam: Three Day Ramadan**
 - Choose any three consecutive days before the due date
 - Fast starts at sundown on day 1, and ends at sundown three days later.
 - On each of the three evenings prior to a day of fasting, you should state out loud, to yourself or to others, that you are fasting (and not for instance accidentally missing meals).
 - If you want to eat on the morning of a fast, eating must be completed **before sunrise**. You can also eat as soon as the sun sets. It is universally acknowledged that eating small meals at sunset and sundown (and not pigging out) will make the fast easier. Likewise, eating good foods (proteins, nuts, dried fruit) will make things easier (as opposed to potato chips and ice cream).
 - Remember the fast is complete: no food in any form (which includes gum and candies as well as food you “eat”), no drink in any form, not even

brushing your teeth, since it is impossible not to swallow tooth paste or the water you rinse your mouth out with.

- Ramadan is a time not only of fasting, but of purity.
- Between sunrise and sunset in your fast you should avoid all sensual pleasures: not just food and drink (in all forms), but smoking, sexual thoughts, sex, anger, jealousy.
- In keeping with Islam, when you do eat, avoid pork and any form of alcohol.
- **Reflection Questions:**
 - You likely fasted alone for this exercise. How much different would it be to fast as a member of a community? You also fasted in Canada. How much different would it be to fast in a majority-Muslim community?
 - What sort of role do you think fasting plays in spirituality or religion?

Instructions for written assignments

- NOTE: You MUST choose an assignment in a different religion from your own. If you were raised in a Christian, Jewish, or Muslim household, you cannot do an assignment in your own tradition, even if you claim to be agnostic or no longer practicing. Be prepared to explain your decision if I question it.
- *Papers cannot be submitted electronically.
- Regardless of which assignment you choose, it is due **June 3 in class**.
- Assignments must be 2 pages, no longer. Can it be shorter? Of course! Short papers won't be penalized by me because they usually penalize themselves by being short. They must be double-spaced, 12 point font, with standard 1 inch margins. The manipulation of these things in order to make a longer paper appear shorter is unacceptable. Efficiency of language and focus on a task are required for working within assigned page or word limitations.
- Late Penalties: **Written assignments are due in class on June 3**. There will be a penalty of 2% starting June 3 at 9pm, 2% for every additional day including weekends after that unless an extension has been approved **before the due date**. Retroactive extensions will be granted only according to the rules of the university: personal and family emergencies (for which documentation must be provided). Extensions will not be granted because of essay or exam conflicts, busy schedules, jobs, life, internet cat-videos, etc.
- Late papers must be placed in the Religion and Classics Drop Box (a large locked wooden box on the wall outside 2a39 Paterson Hall). Do not slip papers under my door, or anyone else's door: the cleaning staff may pick them up and throw them out. Do not hand them to anyone. Late papers cannot expect to be marked as quickly as papers submitted on time.
- Proof-read your work several times before handing it in, or ask someone whose writing skills are strong to do it. Needless and countless errors of spelling, grammar, and syntax are a serious impediment to effective writing and communication, and these *will* affect your grade. Take a low grade on this

- assignment seriously, as the expectations of writing quality in university become greater and greater each year, yes even for Engineering students!
- Papers that venture too far from these requirements and limits (by page limits, appearance, or content) may be returned ungraded for resubmission (and late penalties will accrue from the due date, regardless of when the problem is discovered). Therefore, read the directions carefully and follow them.
 - Retain Copies of Work Submitted: It is crucial that you retain an electronic copy of all assignments/take home tests submitted in every course. Also remember to do a computer/disk back-up. Please submit originals for marking, however, not photocopies. Papers **cannot** under any circumstances be submitted electronically (i.e., by email), but must be printed and submitted as hard copy.

Midterm Exam (May 25, in class – no lecture that day; worth 30% of the final mark)

- Exam: 6:10-7:40 pm.
- No student is allowed to start the exam after the first person has left the room. Please don't be late or you could lose the right to do the exam.
- 80 multiple choice questions.
- Written on scantron sheets.
- Covering only the lectures and readings on History

Final Exam (40%)

- Final exam will be a multiple-choice exam written on scantron sheets
- Final exam will cover material from the WHOLE course (including history)
- 120 questions; 2 hour exam
- The final exam will be drawn from the text book and the lectures equally. The date, time, and place of the exam are selected by the university, not by me. Watch for information as it becomes available on <http://www2.carleton.ca/exams/>

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 this course is **June 16, 2015**.

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/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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