

**The College of the Humanities
Program (Religion)
RELI 1730A : Interpretations of Religion**

Professor: Leonard Librande

Office: Paterson 2A52

Office Hours: Monday – 13:00 to 14:00; Wednesday – 13:00 to 14:30

Phone: 613 520-2100. Ext. 2930; **E-mail:** WebCT Mail

TA: Elise Bradt; **Office Hours:** TBA

Lectures: Azrieli Theatre 302 - Monday/Wednesday 11:35 am -12:55 pm

Course Description

Introduction to the academic study of religion by considering such fundamental components as power, myth, ritual, symbol, scripture, and doctrine and drawing material from a variety of world religions. Precludes additional credit for **RELI 2002** and **RELI 1205** and **RELI 1402** and **RELI 1731**.

Required Texts

Gary E. Kessler, *Studying Religion: An Introduction Through Cases* (McGraw-Hill, 2008)

Course Requirements

The final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

One hour Mid-term In-class Exam (Feb 7 & 9)	30%
One-Page Response Paper (Due Feb 28)	30%
Three hour Final Exam (Scheduled in April)	40%

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Goals

The goals of this course relate to the disciplined study of a religion, especially in terms of what is entitled *Religionswissenschaft* or the scientific study of religion.

- To learn how to engage in the study of religion.
- To understand the significance of religion for people's lives.
- To become familiar with the major ideas in the field of religious studies.

2011 WINTER TERM: RELI 1730A (Mondays and Wednesdays)					
Jan 3	Jan 5	Feb 2		Mar 2	Apr 4
Jan 10	Jan 12	Feb 7	Feb 9	Mar 7	Mar 9
Jan 17	Jan 19	Feb 14	Feb 16	Mar 14	Mar 16
Jan 24	Jan 26	WINTER BREAK		Mar 21	Mar 23
Jan 31		Feb 28		Mar 28	Mar 30

Course Outline

1. Kessler, "Thinking about Religion," 1-12
Russell T. McCutcheon, "Insides, Outsides, and the Scholar of Religion" [001RE-Thinking about Religion.pdf]
2. Kessler, "On Defining and Studying Religion," 14-35
Russell Kirkland, "Defining 'Religion'" [002RE-Defining Religion.pdf; also available at "<http://kirkland.myweb.uga.edu/rk/pdf/guides/RELDEFINE.pdf>"]
3. Kessler, "Sacred Power," 38-58
Philip Edward Harding, "Manifestations of the Sacred: Art, Ritual, and the Search for Holiness" [003RE-Sacred Power.pdf]
4. Kessler, "Myth as Sacred Story," 60-80
Robert A. Segal, "The Myth-Ritualist Theory of Religion" [004RE-Myth as Sacred Story.pdf]
5. Kessler, "Ritual as Sacred Action," 82-101
Charles Eisenstein, "The Origins of Separation: Religion and Ritual" [005RE-Sacred Action]
6. Kessler, "Sacred Space and Time," 103-125
David Chidester and Edward T. Linenthal, "Introduction," [006RE-Sacred Space and Time.pdf]
7. Kessler, "Experiencing the Sacred," 127-158
Lilia Melani, "Otto on the Numinous" [007REa-Experiencing the Sacred.pdf]
8. Kessler, "Explaining Evil," 159-183
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, "Theodicy: Abridgement of the Argument Reduced to Syllogistic Form" [008RE-Explaining Evil.pdf]
9. Kessler, "Religion and Morality," 186-207
Randall Nadeau, "Introduction: Chinese Religion and the World's Religions" [009RE-Religion and Morality.pdf]
10. Kessler, "Religion and Politics," 210-237
John Rex, "Secular Substitutes for Religion in the Modern World" [010RE-Religion and Politics.pdf; also available at "<http://www.google.ca/search?q=Secular+Substitutes+for+Religion&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>"]
11. Kessler, "Organizing the Sacred," 240-274
Feodor Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor" [011RE-Organizing the Sacred.pdf]
12. Kessler, "Human Existence and Destiny," 276-298

Max Weber, "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism" [012RE-Human Existence and Destiny.pdf]

13. Kessler, "Human Diversity and Truth," 300-323
 Keith E. Johnson, "John Hick's Pluralistic Hypothesis and the Problem of Conflicting Truth-Claims" [013RE-Religious Diversity and Truth.pdf]

Each week students will be expected to have read one chapter from Kessler's textbook as well as an outside reading that relates to Kessler's chapter.

The outside readings can be found as ".pdf" files on this course's WebCT site in the folder "1730 – Readings". In addition students will find a list of significant terms and names in the WebCT folder "1730 – Terms and Names" for each one of Kessler's chapters and their matching readings. Lecture overheads (four to a page) for each chapter can also be found in the WebCT folder "1730 - Lecture Overheads".

Exams

There are two exams for the course: a **mid-term exam** in class and a **final exam** to be scheduled during the final examination period in April. These exams will be a mix of true and false as well as multiple choice elements.

To accommodate the holding of the mid-term exam in the Azrieli class room, the mid-term exam will occur twice, on Monday February 7th and Wednesday February 9th. Students whose last name begins with a letter between A and L will write their mid-term exam on Monday the 7th and students whose last name begins with a letter between K and Z will write their mid-term exam on Wednesday the 9th. There will be no lectures during the week of the mid-term exam.

If, for any reason, a student fails to show up for the mid-term exam, the student will be required to write a second one-page response paper in place of the mid-term exam. This second response paper is due by March 23, 2011 and will count for 30% of the final grade.

One-Page Response Paper

For this paper, choose any one of the 13 readings in the WebCT folder "1730 – Readings". Your assignment is to write a **one-page response paper** related in some way of your own choosing to the reading. Though this is a very short paper, it will still need to have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion, if it is to make sense.

This sort of paper might present one of your ideas about the reading or your reaction to it. It could be that something in the reading triggers a thought that even lies outside the topic of the reading. In essence I want you to put your hand to composing a response paper that is either clever or amusing or insightful.

The one-page response paper needs to be (1) **thoughtful**, with a clear, well-focused main idea and carefully chosen details, (2) **organized**, so that it easy to follow, (3) **original**, evidencing command of the topic with enthusiasm and some depth, and (4) **correct**, with good sentence structure, usage, grammar, and mechanics.

Thoughtfulness will count 34% toward the final grade of the one-page response paper, organization 26%, originality 23%, and correctness 17%.

Composing a one-page response paper is something of an art. The brevity of the paper requires more in the way of imagination and planning, if only to overcome the shortage of space to express your ideas and fit a content that works in the space permitted.

The assigned paper is to be one-page in length. Papers longer than one printed page will not be accepted. Papers shorter than two-thirds of the page will be penalized. A one-page paper has around 500 words. When you hand in your response paper, please provide a second copy of the paper.

Top, bottom, right and left margins should all be set to 1". Lines must be single spaced. Use the Times New Roman font and set it to 12 point size.

Include your name, student number, course number in the header like this:

Joseph Scott, 100111111, RELI 1730A

Briefly identify the reading you have chosen in the footer like this:

011RE – The Grand Inquisitor

If you have a title for your paper, put it on the first line of the page.

A grade in the A range can be awarded when the paper is outstanding or even exceptional. The paper is lively and interesting. It has style and all its parts fit the topic.

A grade in the B range can be awarded when the paper is above-average. This paper is well organized and focused on one main idea. The writing in this paper is mechanically correct with few exceptions.

A grade in the C range is satisfactory. Its idea is undeveloped or somewhat unclear so that it remains vague and uninteresting. Some sentences are incomprehensible. There are too many errors in grammar, usage, punctuation or spelling.

A grade in the D range indicates a paper that is minimally acceptable. The paper's topic is unclear and lacks any development. This paper may repeat thoughts again and again and may be filled with mechanical faults.

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. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

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 Merton 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 Merton 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