

RELI 1000A
Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
May-June 2009
Monday + Wednesday 5:30-8:30pm
340 Tory

Professor Z. A. Crook
Paterson Hall 2a43
Office Hours: Monday + Wednesday 4-5pm (no office hours during Congress)
Course Website: <http://http-server.carleton.ca/~zcrook/RELI1000Homepage.htm>
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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

WebCT Midterm 1 (Judaism) – 20% (Friday **June 5**; details below)
WebCT Midterm 2 (Christianity) – 20% (Saturday **June 13**; details below)
Living Religion Assignment – 20% (2-3 pages; due Wednesday **June 17**; details below)
Must Pass Final Exam – 40% (during early summer exam schedule: Jun 30 + July 2-4; details below)

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 have them in class with you.

May 11	Introduction to the Course
May 13	Judaism: History (Ludwig Ch. 6)
May 18	No Class (Victoria Day)
May 20	Judaism: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 7)

May 25+27	No Class (Cdn. Congress of Learned Societies on campus)
June 1	Judaism: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 8)
June 3	Christianity: History (Ludwig Ch. 9)
June 8	Christianity: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 10)
June 10	Christianity: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 11)
June 15	Islam: History (Ludwig Ch. 12)
June 17	Islam: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 13)
June 22	Islam: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 14)
June 24	Review + Course Conclusions

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).

Pre-Midterm Test Run

- Jun 1-3 there will be a chance for everyone to do a test run of the WebCT exam System: log in, answer a skill testing question, save the quiz, “Finish” the exam, and get the bonus mark.
- Doing all this correctly gets you a **1% bonus to the final mark**.
- It also ensures that you know how the WebCT exams work and what it all looks like in there so that at Midterm time there are no surprises or technical glitches.

Midterm Exams

WebCT Midterm 1 (Judaism) – 20% (June 5)

WebCT Midterm 2 (Christianity) – 20% (June 13)

- Both of the midterms for this course will be conducted on WebCT.
- On the appropriate days, the midterm link on your WebCT page for this course will become active.
- You can write the midterm at any time between 12:01am and 11:59pm on the day of the exam. I’ve done this in order to allow you to write the exam even if you have a job
- Even if you start the midterm at 11:57pm, the system WILL still let you finish. It will not shut off at 11:59pm. But you cannot **start** the midterm after 11:59pm.
- Do not forget when your exams are. No student who forgets the exam, or “thought it was the next day” will be allowed to rewrite the midterm.
- Each midterm will last for 50mins exactly. Each quiz will be made up of 50 questions.

- Be sure NOT to open the quiz until you are prepared to write the exam uninterrupted, because there is no way to stop the clock once you have opened the exam. When the 50mins have elapsed, WebCT will end the quiz session, no matter what.
- Once you have started the quiz, the option of a rewrite is not available to you. If you are sick and do not wish to write the exam, the usual rules apply in terms of obtaining documentation. If you open the midterm, you have to write it then and there.
- If you have technical difficulties, let me know immediately. I can see what's going on from inside, so I can confirm what ever difficulties you are having, and I can reset the exam. If this happens early enough on the exam day, I can reset the exam right away, and you can try again immediately. If it happens too late in the day, I'll arrange for a make up exam.
- However, any student who has technical difficulties on the first midterm but did not bother to do the Pre-midterm test-run will receive no mercy. The whole point of the test-run is to ensure your computer can function in the WebCT exam.
- Both midterms will cover material drawn from the textbook and the lectures, not primarily one or the other.

Sample Questions:

- 1) Abraham built the first temple for the Jews. True or False?
- 2) Which early council decided that the Word was the same as God?
 - a. Vatican I
 - b. Vatican II
 - c. Chalcedon
 - d. Nicea

Living Religion Assignment (Due Jun 17; 20% of final mark)

- 2-3 pages (double-spaced and absolutely no longer than 3 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
 - 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?
- **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:
 - 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 (5:225-26)
 - 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)
 - 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?
 - Also, consider this: 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?

- **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.
 - Write about the experience.
 - Imagine you had to do it for a whole month.
 - 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 17 in class.
- Assignments must be 2-3 pages, no longer and no shorter. 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 on the specified date**. There will be a penalty of 2% per day (including weekends) from the mark of your paper unless an extension has been arranged **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, 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 any one 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 in this section seriously, as the expectations of writing quality in university become greater and greater each year.
- 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 a hard 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.

Final Exam (40% of final mark; Date to be announced by the University)

- The final exam in a traditional scantron/multiple choice exam, not a WebCT exam. It will be proctored, with no study guides, and will be scheduled by the university during the summer examination period.

You MUST pass the final exam in order to pass this course

- If you fail the Final Exam (get 49.5% or lower), you will receive an F in the course, regardless of how impressive your previous work has been. Even if you go into the final exam with a 99% average, you **MUST** still pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

The Final Exam will have two parts.

- **Part One** will be 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions on Islam (in the same form as the mid-terms on Judaism and Christianity)
- **Sample Question:**

Which of the following is not a holy city to Muslims?

- a. Medina
- b. Jerusalem
- c. Cairo
- d. Mecca

- **Part Two** will be another 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Some of them will be comparative, comparing some aspects of the religion between and among all three religions covered in this course, and some of them will be about just Judaism or Christianity.

- **Sample Question:**

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic religions. True or False?

- The final exam will comprise 40% of your total mark.
- The final exam will be drawn from the text book and the lectures equally. The date, time, and place of the exam is selected by the university, not by me. Watch for information as the exam schedule becomes available.

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	“Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and 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 Early Summer courses is June 12, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Full Summer and Late Summer courses is July 31, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

1. For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (ext. 6608) to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first in-class or CUTV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. Deadlines for submitting forms for formally scheduled exam accommodation: June 12, 2009 for June examinations and July 31, 2009 for August examinations.

2. For Religious Obligations

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

3. For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services (613-520-5622) to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library