

College of the Humanities  
Carleton University  
HUMS 2000A

**Reason and Revelation**  
**A Blended Online Course**  
**Fall 2020 - Winter 2021**

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THIS SYLLABUS IS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT

**Course Description:**

This blended online course introduces students to the philosophical pursuit of knowledge and happiness in Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Plotinus, and its encounter with Christianity and Islam in Augustine, Boethius, Islamic Neoplatonism, Aquinas, and Dante.

It is a “blended” online course because course delivery will take place through a combination of live (i.e., synchronous) online instruction/interaction and recorded (i.e., asynchronous) content.

**Lectures:**

Lectures for the course will be pre-recorded and uploaded to the course’s cuLearn page.

- Lectures may be accessed at any time, but the weekly online group discussions will track the *Suggested Schedule of Lectures and Readings* that will be made available on cuLearn.
- Please note: this pre-recorded content is being made available to you for the purpose of this course. **Please do not upload these recordings to a file-sharing platform or distribute them in some other way** without our explicit permission. And if you use these materials in any other academic context, be sure to cite them appropriately.

### Discussion Groups:

- Group 1: Mondays, 8:35am to 9:55am
- Group 2: Wednesdays, 11:35am to 12:55am

These will follow the traditional format for the discussion groups in HUMS 2000, only they will be held online *via* Zoom. As mentioned above, the topics of these weekly sessions will track the *Suggested Schedule of Lectures and Readings* that will be posted on cuLearn.

### *Special exemption:*

Part of your grade for this course will be based on your attendance and participation in these weekly group meetings. They are thus mandatory. However, we recognize that some students may be unable to participate in these synchronous sessions because they lack access to highspeed internet, and that others may find themselves in a time-zone that would make participation in them extremely inconvenient and unreasonably disruptive.

**In such cases, we are prepared to be accommodating and to work out alternate arrangements for satisfactory participation in the course. Students who would like to be considered for a special exemption must submit their request to us by email.** If the request is deemed reasonable and an exemption is issued, we will then work together to determine alternative means of participation in the class.

### *Recordings are not permitted:*

**The recording of tutorial sessions is strictly prohibited.** Your peers (and instructors) have a right to privacy, and they cannot be considered to have waived that right simply through their participation in an online videoconferencing session.

### Required Texts:

Detailed information on the books we will be studying in this course will be provided in a separate document on cuLearn. This document will not only list the texts and editions we will be using and suggest different ways to obtain hard copies, it will also provide options for accessing the readings electronically.

But since no syllabus for a course in a Great Books program would be complete without some sort of overview of the books covered in that course, know that we will be working through the following (usually in their entirety):

- Aristotle. *The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Ed. Richard McKeon. New York: Random House, 1941.
- Augustine. *Confessions*. Tr. H. Chadwick. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Boethius. *Consolation of Philosophy*. Tr. P.G. Walsh. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Dante. *The Divine Comedy*. 3 vols. Tr. Dorothy Sayers. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1949-62.

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- Plato. *Complete Works*. Ed. John M. Cooper. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett, 1997.
- Plotinus. *Ennead V*. Ed. and tr. A.H. Armstrong. Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, Mass./London: Harvard Univ. Press, 1984.
- Thomas Aquinas. *Selected Writings*. Ed. and tr. Ralph McNerny. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1998.

**Optional Online Reading:**

- *The Humanities Writing Guide* will be posted on cuLearn.

**Grades:**

Grades will be based solely on individual, academic merit as judged against absolute standards. They will not be adjusted to achieve a supposed normal distribution or manipulated in any other way.

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	15%
Assignment 3	15%
Assignment 4	15%
Attendance in the online group discussions (unless an exemption has been granted and alternative arrangements have been made)	10%
Participation in course	5%
A take-home examination due on the last day of the formal, December examination period	15%
A take-home examination due on the last day of the formal, April examination period	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grades for assignments will be given as a percentage out of 100. At the end of the course you will be assigned a letter grade corresponding to your final percentage, according to the standard Carleton scale:

Standard Carleton Grade Scale				
0-49 = F	50-53 = D- 54-56 = D 57-59 = D+	60-63 = C- 64-66 = C 67-69 = C+	70-73 = B- 74-76 = B 77-79 = B+	80-84 = A- 85-89 = A 90-100 = A+

**Attendance:**

The official Bachelor of Humanities policy on student participation and attendance is the following: *Attendance and participation are critical components of all courses in the Bachelor of Humanities program. As a result, a pattern of non-attendance may in and of itself constitute sufficient grounds for awarding a final course grade of F.*

- **Attendance in the online discussion groups is worth 10% of your final grade (unless an exemption has been formally granted to you and alternative arrangements have been made with you for participation in the course).**
- However, if a physical or psychological condition rendered you unable to do schoolwork on a day that you missed group, you must let us know, and we will remove that day from consideration in your participation grade.
- **You must be present for at least 25% of the online group discussions or you will fail the course automatically** (unless – once again – we have waived this requirement for you and worked out alternative means for you to participate in the course), no matter how well you do on the assignments and take-home examinations. See the section below on Automatic Failure.
- It is your responsibility to make up any material covered and find out about any announcements made during online sessions you end up missing.

### **Participation:**

At the end of each semester, you will be asked to evaluate yourself for your overall participation in the course (which mainly means in the online discussion groups). *These two self-evaluations will be used to determine your overall mark for participation in the course.*

A separate document outlining our expectations for class participation and providing guidelines for your self-evaluations as well as instructions on how to submit them will be posted on cuLearn.

Note: we reserve the right to assign you a mark for participation if: (1) you fail to submit your self-evaluation by the established deadline (for which see the separate handout on participation); or (2) if the marks you have given yourself are very clearly unjustified (by being either too high or too low). Concerning the latter case, rest assured: only self-evaluations diverging *starkly* from what we have observed will be adjusted.

### **Assignment Submission:**

Assignments must be submitted electronically by being uploaded to the appropriate file folder on cuLearn.

Please also note the following:

- Electronic submissions must be **in MS Word format** (.doc or .docx).
- If you upload the electronic copy of your assignment in the wrong format (e.g. PDF, Pages, or RTF), **we will not consider your assignment to have been submitted.** Late penalties will accrue until the MS Word document is submitted.

- Do not upload your document a second time in order to fix a minor issue. Documents with minor corrections should be emailed as an attachment, to [gregory.macisaac@carleton.ca](mailto:gregory.macisaac@carleton.ca) or [erik.stephenson@carleton.ca](mailto:erik.stephenson@carleton.ca)

### **Late Assignments:**

Late assignments will have their grade reduced by 3% per calendar day (i.e. including weekends and holidays). According to the standard Carleton scale given above, this means that in most cases you will lose one letter grade per day that your assignment is late.

For example, an assignment that would have received a 78% (B+) would suffer the following penalties:

- 1 day late (from the beginning of class to midnight the following calendar day) = 75% (B)
- 2 days = 72% (B-)
- 3 days = 69% (C+)
- 4 days = 66% (C)
- 7 days = 57% (D+)
- 10 days = 48% (F)
- And so on, until the assignment reaches 0% (F)

**Late assignments will very quickly sink to a grade of F.** Hand in your assignments on time.

**Even an assignment that is so late it will merit a grade of 0% (F) must be completed,** or you will fail the course. See the section below on Automatic Failure.

### **'Extensions':**

An extension is a private due date for your assignment that differs from the due date every other student must meet. **No extensions will be granted in this course.**

However, if a physical or psychological condition, or some other unforeseen circumstances outside of your control, rendered you unable to do schoolwork for a certain period of time, let us know, and we will reduce your late-penalty in a way that corresponds to the number of days of incapacity.

*Please note that a heavy workload does not constitute a legitimate reason for lateness.* Late penalties are an incentive to manage your time effectively, but they are also a consequence of failing to do so.

### **Deferrals:**

In some very exceptional circumstances, it is possible to obtain a **deferral of course work** from your instructors. These will only be granted in cases where serious injury, illness, or other involuntary factors have rendered you unable to work for a prolonged

period of time, and where a reasonable chance of completing your course work still exists.

You must request a deferral of course work from your instructors no later than three days after the deadline for the assignment you were unable to complete has passed, and an accommodation must be agreed upon, if granted, before the last day of classes.

If you do not hand in your deferred course work by the deadline for submission of grades, it will receive a 0%, and you will receive an F in the course for incomplete term work. If you subsequently hand in your deferred work, and it is accepted, your grade will then be adjusted.

Note that deferrals of course work are granted at the discretion of your instructors; they are not granted by the Registrar's Office.

### **Completion of Term Work:**

Term work in this course consists of four written assignments.

- The final day to hand in term work in this course is the 9th of April 2021. **If you have not submitted all of your assignments by this date, you must withdraw from the course or you will fail automatically**, with a grade of 'F', unless granted a deferral by your instructors (see above).
- The final date to withdraw from the course is the 9th of April 2020.
- If you hand in an assignment after the 9th of April because of some form of incapacitation, your effective submission date will be adjusted according to the number of days of incapacitation. If the revised date is the 9th or before, the assignment will be accepted.
- In exceptional circumstances you can petition the Registrar's office for a back-dated medical withdrawal from all of your courses in a given year.

### **Automatic Failure:**

To pass, students must regularly attend the online group discussions, complete all the written assignments, and complete and submit both take-home examinations, all unless formally excused by the instructors because of illness or another legitimate reason.

**Thus, you will fail the course automatically, with a grade of F, if you:**

- **Do not hand in one or more assignments; and/or**
- **Do not hand in one or both of the take-home examinations; and/or**
- **Do not attend at least 25% of the online discussion groups (unless you have been formally exempted from this requirement)**

### **Getting Help:**

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We are always willing to give you whatever help we can. We are willing to help you understand and plan your assignments, give you constructive feedback, help you come up with a strategy to get your work done more efficiently, or refer you to the services Carleton University offers that can help with any serious problems that crop up.

But in order for us to help you, you must ask for our help.

- If your assignment is late, don't ignore it. You will end up failing the class. Talk to us. Let us know that you are having problems. We will let you know what your options are, no matter how serious your circumstances may be.
- Visit us in our virtual office hours, which we will hold every week, whether you need to discuss a problem, a paper (before or after writing), or simply would like to chat about this course or another course. We can help you much more effectively one-on-one than we can in class, and that is what office hours are for.
- Discuss your assignments with your classmates and with students in upper years. They have all been where you are right now, and they can help you figure out whatever you find difficult.
- No one is good at everything right away. But most people make dramatic improvement with the help of others who already know the path to follow.



# Humanities

## University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

### Academic Dates and Deadlines

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This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)



# Academic Accommodation Policy

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## Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

**Parental Leave:** The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

**Religious obligation:** Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

# Grading System at Carleton University

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. 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."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

[More information](#)

## Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

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Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

## Deferred Final Exams

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Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

## [Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal](#)

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

## Department Contact Information

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*Bachelor of the Humanities* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Greek and Roman Studies* 300 Paterson Hall  
[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Religion* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Graduate)* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)