

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
College of the Humanities - Religion Program
[as of 30 August 2022]

CHRISTIANITY

RELI 2200A – (Fall 2022)

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introductory survey of Christianity from (roughly) the time of early Christian communities to the present (approximately). The aim is to introduce key concepts, practices, and teachings of Christianity in historical context. Due to the nature of the survey, as well as the complexity and diversity of Christian history, this course can only address a very small sample of materials from a few of the many Christian traditions. However, a major aim of this course to suggest frameworks for understanding Christianity historically (i.e., for locating, arranging, or organizing further bits of Christian history one might encounter and want to study, including in more advanced university courses). At the very least this course should offer an appreciation of the diversity of historical Christianity. Please note, finally, that while some of the worldviews studied in this course are explicitly theological, the academic procedures and critical methods employed in Carleton's Religious Studies programme are not. This course presupposes your acceptance of the principles of the modern research university. Your understanding of these, especially as they pertain to the study of religion, will undoubtedly develop further during this course.

EVALUATION – GENERAL INFORMATION

In addition to a mandatory **final examination** (worth 40% of your course grade) there will be three in-class **quizzes** and three in-class **short essays** in this course. These will take place at the end of the class period on days indicated in the schedule below. Your **best five of six** results on these items will be counted towards your final grade (i.e., each one is worth 12%). Normally, there will be no make-up for in-class quizzes or assignments missed. Exceptions will only be made in unusual circumstances and, where possible, by prior arrangement.

EVALUATION -- QUICK REFERENCE SCHEDULE

Final Examination.....	Date TBD by examination services
In-class Quiz #1.....	29 September
In-class Essay #1.....	13 October
In-class Quiz #2.....	20 October
In-class Essay #2.....	10 November
In-class Quiz #3.....	17 November
In-class Essay #3.....	1 December

LECTURES

This is a lecture course, which means that my oral presentation is a primary mode of communication. Nevertheless, a certain amount of time will also be devoted to discussion and question periods. **Materials posted to Carleton's LMS Brightspace are a prerequisite and not a substitute for lecture material.** You can expect the quizzes, short essays and exam to be based primarily on material presented in class. Therefore, attendance is not optional but obligatory in this course. Lectures will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:35-12:55 in Room 417 Southam Hall. Late arrivals are very distracting to both your

fellow students and to me, so please be punctual. Finally, please be advised that audio or visual recording of lectures, either in whole or in part, is not permitted. PLEASE switch off all electronic communication devices during class.

PREPARATORY MATERIALS or "READINGS" (AND EXPECTATIONS)

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Preparatory materials (mostly conventional "readings" such as scholarly articles or primary sources, but also the occasional non-textual object for consideration) will be made available via Brightspace. It is expected that you will spend 2 hours for every 1 hour of in-class time preparing for class by engaging with these preparatory materials. Such engagement should take the form of careful consideration rather than line-by-line reading. The point is to introduce you to some primary sources as well as developed scholarships of historical Christianity. All-in-all, you should **expect the total time commitment for this course to be about 9-10 hours per week** (not counting final examination preparation). Please note, again, that preparatory materials are a prerequisite rather than a substitute for class attendance. The course has been planned to promote dialogue – between the readings and the lectures, occasionally between several of the readings in “conversation” with each other, and ultimately amongst us all, as active participants in the class. Your ability to follow lectures and to enter effectively in such dialogues will depend on you having considered the preparatory materials in advance of class period. In my experience, student success in this course is directly correlated to regular preparation and class attendance.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held Tuesdays from 2-3pm.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure compliance with the privacy act commonly known as FIPPA (i.e., for your protection), Carleton communications policy states that faculty must conduct email communications with students only through their Carleton accounts. Please be advised, further, that students can normally expect up to a 24hour turn-around time on e-mail communication, especially during high volume times (i.e., before quizzes, exams, etc.).

A NOTE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All course materials (including lectures, outlines, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and similar materials) are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive holder of copyright and other intellectual property rights for all course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for any purpose, commercial or otherwise, without my express written consent. By turn, your work in this course remains your own exclusive intellectual property and will not be shared with anybody without your permission, except in accordance with Carleton University policies, which must conform directives of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (for example, anonymized student work may be reviewed for the purposes of quality assurance, etc.).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Introductory meet-and-greet (8 September)

Attendance optional...meeting informal

Week I (13/15 September) Some Basic Vocabulary...

- ...for the study of Christianity as well as for the “academic study of religion”
- Borrowing the “in 50 words” approach from McCutcheon and Hughes
- Wrestling with terminology as a condition of (academic) existence

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) RELI 2200: The essential word list (Brightspace)
- 2) “Introduction” to Aaron Hughes and Russell T. McCutcheon, *Religion in 50 Words: A Critical Vocabulary* (New York: Routledge, 2021).

Week II (20/22 September) Who is Christianity?

- Ethno-religions and conversion religions
- Religion as a social formation: issues of class, gender, and race
- The diversity of Christian identities...in all ages of history
- The challenges of definition...from both insider and outsider perspectives

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) The Apostles' Creed (<http://www.creeds.net/ancient/apostles.htm>)
- 2) The Nicene Creed (<http://www.creeds.net/ancient/nicene.htm>)

Week III (27/29 September) What is Christianity?

- What is a “religion”? The deficiencies of “faith”, “tradition” and similar circumlocutions
- Is there a difference between “social formation” and “social movement”?
- Christianity as a cultural phenomenon?
- The importance of institutional organization (hierarchy, for example)
- The idea of Christian office and authority (with plenty of examples)

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) Reading: Malcolm Ruel, “Christians as Believers” [1982] in M. Lambek, ed., *A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 99-113.

Week IV (4/6 October) Where is Christianity?

- Patterns of spatial mobility
- Patterns of social mobility
- Patterns of “translation” (with a nod to the late Lamin Sanneh)
- Patterns of “indigenization”

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) 2011 Pew report on global distribution of Christians (<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>)
- 2) SIL International website (<https://www.sil.org/>)

Week V (11/13 October) When is Christianity?

- Periodization – for easy reference, but not for explanation
- Christian historicism (esp. so-called “providential history”)
- Frameworks of Church history versus “secular” historical frameworks
- Some key examples: “Christmas tree” and “hour -glass” conceptions of formative Christianity; “triumphalism” and its discontents; “Reformation” versus “early modern” history...

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) Christopher Dawson, “The Christian View of History” *Blackfriars* 32 (1951), 312-327 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43814186>)
- 2) compare one contemporary Christian take on historical orientation (<https://www.raptureready.com/>)

Week VI (18/20 October) – Christian Materiality

- The cult of relics (with a nod to Peter Brown)
- Object and ritual, identity, agency
- Some obvious examples: liturgical objects...and some less obvious ones:
- Illuminated manuscripts, pilgrimage marks, Filipino “libritos”

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) Cynthia Hahn, "The Voices of the Saints: Speaking Reliquaries" *Gesta* 36 (1997), 20-31. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/767276>)
- 2) Aden Kumler, "Imitatio Rerum: Sacred Objects in the St. Giles's Hospital Processional," *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, 44 (2016), 469-502.

FALL BREAK

Week VII (1/3 November) – Christian Textuality

- Bible Basics
- Text, canon and authority
- From interesting anomalies to major departures: apocryphal books and new revelations
- The notion of “practical” canon and the diversity of Christianity

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) selections from the Christian textual canon, TBA...

Week VIII (8/10 November) – Christian Spirituality

- Early mystical “reactions” to classical philosophy and imperial authority
- Medieval mystics (e.g., Brigitte of Sweden and Johannes Tauler)
- Early modern “spiritualists” (e.g., Caspar Schwenckfeld and George Fox)
- Modern movement(s), esp. Pentecostalism

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) The Journal of George Fox, Chapter 1 (https://flp-assets.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/en/george-fox/journal/original/Journal_of_George_Fox--original.pdf)

Week IX (15/17 November) – Christianity and Imperial Power

- Roman
- Carolingian
- British
- Russian

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) The Donation of Constantine (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/donatconst.asp>)
- 2) Henry Mayr-Harting, "Charlemagne, the Saxons, and the Imperial Coronation of 800" *English Historical Review* 111 (1996), 1113-1133. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/575852>)

Week X (22/24 November) – Christianity and Colonialism

- The “great commission” and “intrusive altruism”
- “Soldier of Christ” and other moments of militant Christianity

- Some key Christian organization in Euro-American colonial practice
- Christians and the TRC

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) Jason Redden, “‘Boil Them Hearts’: The Role of Methodist Revivalist Piety in Indigenous Conversion and Evangelization in Late Nineteenth-century Coastal British Columbia” *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 46 (2016), 50-74. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0008429816660883>)
- 2) Sarah Kathleen Johnson, "On our Knees: Christian ritual in residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada" *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 47 (2018), 3-24. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0008429817733269>)

Week XI (29 November/1 December) – Christians by “profession”

- Early monastic impulses and their meaning
- The rules of the “regular” religious...for example of St. Basil or St. Benedict
- Some better and lesser-known varieties (from anchorites, to beguines, to Skoptsy)
- "Integrated" monasticism in contemporary Christianities (for example, in Coptic/Ethiopian Christianity)

Preparatory materials for consideration:

- 1) Selections from Benedict’s Rule (<https://gutenberg.org/files/50040/50040-h/50040-h.htm#chapter-1>; <https://gutenberg.org/files/50040/50040-h/50040-h.htm#chapter-55>)
- 2) Cliff Doerksen, “Into the Friar” *The Chicago Reader* December 23, 2010 (<https://chicagoreader.com/news-politics/into-the-friar/>)

Week XII (6/8 December) – The Architecture of Christianity

- Dedicated ecclesiastical and liturgical spaces of several kinds
- Domestic architectures and Christianity
- The interesting case of bells and their belfries

Preparatory materials for consideration:

TBA



Humanities

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

[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.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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.

Academic Integrity Policy (updated June 2021)

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own.

Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms,

formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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

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

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your [academic obligations](#) during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Religious Accommodation

Please contact your instructor 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. For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation](#).

Pregnancy Accommodation

Please contact your instructor 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. . For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation](#).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities website](#).

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. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. For more details, see the [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

Grading System at Carleton University

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. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#). Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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

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.

Deferred Term Work

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) 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.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic accommodation or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should consult with the department/school/institute chair/director. If a mutually agreeable accommodation to complete course requirements prior to the course grade submission deadline cannot be achieved, the Associate Dean will become involved. If academic accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word **after** the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) for a final grade of WDN (Withdrawn) in the course(s). If academic

accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word **prior** to the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may elect to withdraw from the course(s).

4. Furthermore, if academic accommodation is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. [More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

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 Registrar's Office "Defer an Exam" page](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the “Calculate amount to pay” button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall
GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
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Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
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MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
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