

Carleton University

2024-2025

The College of the Humanities: Religion
Global Religions: Identity and Community (RELI 1741)
2025 Winter Term

Instructor: Dr. Alyshea Cummins

Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Office Location: PA 310A | Zoom

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant:

Office Hours:

Email:

Online/Blended: Asynchronous Online Learning with In-Person Class Discussions

Course Content: Available on Mondays (except for holidays)

In-Person Class Discussions: Tuesdays from 11:35am-12:55pm EDT

(**NOTE:** Some classes take place over Zoom, see Class Schedule and Brightspace for Zoom meeting details)

Course Requires Reliable and High-Speed Internet Connection

Algonquin Land Acknowledgement: Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Description: An estimated 80% of the world's 7 billion people identify with a religious tradition, indicating that knowledge of the world's religions or 'religious literacy' is vital to understanding global issues. This single semester course affords a brief introduction to some of the religions of the world (and their histories) but with a focus on the contemporary: how religious affiliation is playing out today. This course is designed for students wishing to gain introductory knowledge about religious traditions and commitments, and their influence on current politics, culture, and international relations. Special attention is given to the study of Muslims in contemporary societies.

Rationale: This course is an introduction to major issues in the study of religion in global contexts, drawing on historical and contemporary examples.

Learning Outcomes: Although students will gain a basic understanding of some of the history, beliefs, practices, and social contexts of the religions studied in this course, this course primarily focuses on the contemporary construction of religious identities and their role in politics, culture, and international relations. Using religious literacy as a framework, students will develop the ability to observe religion as existing in cultural matrixes and how this affects political, cultural, and social expressions of religion across space and time. Students will learn to recognize personal situated-ness and personal bias in confronting religious phenomena. Finally, through weekly discussion, students will develop skills to express their ideas confidently at a university level and support those ideas with evidence from the lectures, readings, and case studies.

Welcoming Classroom Commitment: We each come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we will inevitably approach discussions and the subject matter in unique ways. Throughout the course we will collectively try to make sure that everyone feels safe and respected when presenting their ideas and understandings about course content. We will be respectful towards one another and do our best to reflect on our own biases and assumptions in order to make space for diverse views and ways of thinking.

Class Time: Each class we will meet to discuss the respective module, lecture, and readings. Through discussions and in-class assignments and activities, students will engage further with class material and gain confidence in expressing their ideas. Participation in class counts towards the participation grade (20%; see details below).

Instruments of Evaluation: The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received. There are three instruments of evaluation plus potential bonus marks. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1: "To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work and examinations as published in the course outline."

Instruments of Evaluation Summary:

Quizzes	40%	Each Module
Reflection Papers	40%	Feb 3 (20%) Apr 4 (20%)
Participation	20%	Tuesdays in class
*BONUS MARKS	+3%	*Due April 4

Weekly Quizzes (40%):

- Weekly quizzes gauge your attentiveness and help prepare you for tests
- There will be a total of 11 Quizzes and the best 10 will count towards the final grade
- Quizzes are open-book and timed to prevent student collaboration
- Found in each Module and completed on Brightspace
- Available until 23:59 EST each following Monday (see Schedule on page 7 of Syllabus)

NOTE: There are no makeups for quizzes, however extra credit opportunities will be made available and will be announced on Brightspace (see *bonus marks*).

Quizzes are available until 23:59 each following Monday (see Class Schedule on page 7 of Syllabus; Please note that there is an exception for Module 6)

Reflection Papers (40%)

- There are two reflection papers:
 - Reflection Paper #1 is available Jan 17, due Feb 3, and is worth 20%
 - Reflection Paper #2 is available Mar 21, due Apr 4, and is worth 20%
- The first Reflection Paper is designed to help students recognize how their situated-ness and personal biases influence their interpretations of religious phenomena
- The second Reflection Paper is designed to gauge student understanding of general course themes
- Reflection papers should be no longer than 500 words
- Instructions and Rubrics can be found on Brightspace

NOTE: Late submissions are subject to a -5% penalty each day they are late up to 4 days after the deadline. After 4 days, late work will no longer be accepted for grading.

Participation (20%)

- Every Tuesday the class meets in-person for class discussions and activities. Some classes are scheduled to take place over Zoom (see Class Schedule and Brightspace).
- Students are expected to complete the module readings and quiz prior to each meeting
- Students will earn marks for their active participation in discussions and activities
- There will be a total of 11 classes and participation is counted for 10

NOTE: **There are no makeups for missed classes**, however extra credit opportunities will be made available and will be announced on Brightspace (see *bonus marks*).

Bonus Marks (+3%):

Extra Credit Assignment (ECA): The ECA allows students to earn up to 3% on top of their final grade and/or make up for missed quizzes. To participate, students must attend a public university lecture (online or in-person) on the topic of religion and write a short critical reflection on the content (see Instructions and Rubric on Brightspace). Students must submit their ECA one week after the posted event. Eligible events will be posted on the “Extra-Credit Opportunities” discussion forum on Brightspace.

All students are permitted to complete one ECA. Students who miss a quiz or a class are permitted to complete additional ECAs.

NOTE: Please email the professor if you are doing an ECA to replace a missed quiz grade or missed class. Late Assignments are subject to a **-5% penalty** each day they are late and will not be accepted for grading 5 days after the deadline. The final day to submit an ECA is **Friday April 4, 2025**.

Required Readings

Textbook

Paul S. Rowe. 2012. *Religion and Global Politics*. Oxford University Press.

Note: The Textbook is on hold at the MacOdrum Library and available for purchase at the University Bookstore

Cost of Educational Material

Textbook cost as per Bookstore:

New \$160.00

Used \$120.00

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Brightspace and may include PDFs, links to online or library sources, and Multi-Media Readings. See the respective module for full list of required readings.

FAQs

1. **Do I have to attend class?** Yes. Students are expected to attend class every Tuesday at 11:35am. Some classes are scheduled to take place over Zoom (see Course Schedule and Brightspace). Participation in class counts towards your participation grade (20%). Lecture videos, notes, Multi-Media Readings and Case Studies, will be posted weekly on Brightspace to be completed asynchronously.
2. **Do I need the textbook?** Yes. The textbook can be purchased through the University Bookstore (they price match).
3. **Are there any other activities to complete weekly?** Yes. Each module requires you to complete a quiz. See Brightspace for a complete list of all required readings, videos, and activities.
4. **Are there any assignments to complete?** Yes. There are two Reflection Papers worth 40% of your final grade. Late Assignments will be subject to a late penalty of -5% each day it is late. Late Assignments will not be accepted after 4 days.
5. **Can I earn bonus marks in this class?** Yes, students can complete one Extra-Credit Assignment (ECA) to earn up to 3% on top of their final grade. Students can also complete additional ECA if they miss a quiz or class (see Bonus Marks).
6. **What if I miss a quiz or a class?** If a student misses a quiz or a class, they can complete an ECA to replace the missed quiz or class.
7. **What is the best way to reach you?** By email, Office hours, or the “Ask the Instructor Q&A” online forum on Brightspace.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 Available: January 6	
CLASS MEETING (Online): Tuesday 01/07 at 11:35am (Syllabus & Course Logistics) – See Brightspace for Zoom Meeting Link	
Module 1	Religious Literacy READ: Ali S. Asani. " Enhancing Religious Literacy in a Liberal Arts Education through the Study of Islam and Muslim Societies ," (pp. 1-31) in Shephard, Jennifer M., Kosslyn, Stephen Michael, and Hammonds, Evelyn Maxine. (eds). <i>The Harvard Sampler: Liberal Education for the Twenty-First Century</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011. COMPLETE: Module 1 on Brightspace QUIZ #1 – Due at 23:59, Monday 01/13

WEEK 2 Available: January 13	
CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 01/14 at 11:35am (Module 1)	
Module 2	Religion in Context READ: CH 1: Introduction and General Theoretical Overview COMPLETE: Module 2 on Brightspace QUIZ #2 – Due at 23:59, Monday 01/20

WEEK 3

Available: January 20

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 01/21 at 11:35am (Module 2)

Module 3

Roman Catholicism

READ: CH 2: The Vatican, Roman Catholicism, and Liberation

COMPLETE: Module 3 on Brightspace

QUIZ #3 – Due at **23:59, Monday 01/27**

WEEK 4

Available: January 27

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 01/28 at 11:35am (Module 3)

Module 4

Protestant Christianity

READ: CH 3: Christianity and U.S. Foreign Policy

COMPLETE: Module 4 on Brightspace

QUIZ #4 – Due at **23:59, Monday 02/03**

SYLLABUS – RELI 1741

WEEK 5

Available: February 3

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 02/04 at 11:35am (Module 4)

Module 5

Judaism

READ: CH 4: Judaism, Zionism, and Israeli Foreign Policy

COMPLETE: Module 5 on Brightspace

Film: Israelism (2023)

QUIZ #5 – Due 23:59, Monday 02/10

REFLECTION PAPER #1 – Due at 23:59, MONDAY, FEB 3

WEEK 6

Available: February 10

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 02/11 at 11:35am (Module 5)

Module 6

Islam

READ: CH 5: Political Islam and the State

COMPLETE: Module 6 on Brightspace

QUIZ #6 – Due 23:59, Friday 02/14*

**Due on Friday due to Reading Week*

WEEK 7

READING WEEK: February 17-23

WEEK 8

Available: February 24

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 02/25 at 11:35am (Module 6)

Module 7

Hinduism

READ: CH 6: Religion and Politics in India

COMPLETE: Module 7 on Brightspace

QUIZ #7 – Due 23:59, Monday 03/03

WEEK 9

Available: March 3

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 03/04 at 11:35am (Module 7)

Module 8

Buddhism

READ: CH 7: Buddhism and Politics

COMPLETE: Module 8 on Brightspace

QUIZ #8 – Due 23:59, Monday 03/10

WEEK 10 Available: March 10	
CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 03/11 at 11:35am (Module 8)	
Module 9	Religion and Human Rights READ: CH 8: Religion, Democracy, and Human Rights COMPLETE: Module 9 on Brightspace QUIZ #9 – Due 23:59, Monday 03/17

WEEK 11 Available: March 17	
CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 03/18 at 11:35am (Module 9)	
Module 10	Religion and Conflict READ: CH 9: Religion and War COMPLETE: Module 10 on Brightspace QUIZ #10 – Due 23:59, Monday 03/24

WEEK 12

Available: March 24

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 03/25 at 11:35am (Module 10)

Module 11

Religion and Peace

READ: CH 10: Religion and Conflict Resolution

COMPLETE: Module 11 on Brightspace

QUIZ #11 – Due 23:59, Monday 03/31

WEEK 13

Available: March 31

Final Discussion

CLASS MEETING (Online): Tuesday 04/01 at 11:35am (Module 11)

See Brightspace for Zoom Meeting Link

REFLECTION PAPER #2 – Due at 23:59, FRIDAY, APRIL 4

EXTRA-CREDIT ASSIGNMENT(S) – Due at 23:59, FRIDAY, APRIL 4

EXAMINATION PERIOD

April 11-26

University Regulations for All College of the

Humanities Courses (Updated November 22,2024)

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.

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.

Online Learning Resources

[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.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This 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, artworks, 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, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- 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

- failing to acknowledge sources with 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 follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems and in being exposed to each other’s views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor’s directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co- operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate. **More information on the process [here](#).**

Academic Accommodations

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.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

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](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Grading System at Carleton University

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.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#).

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 extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. 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 extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), 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 consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration 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: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), 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 (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of 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](#).

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

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.

Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service
<https://walkincounselling.com>

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

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
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca