

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
RELIGION PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES

RELI 1710
2024 FALL TERM
Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Online: Asynchronous Online Learning
Course Content: Available on Tuesdays

Instructor:

Alyshea Cummins

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: Zoom

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant(s):

See Brightspace Homepage

Course Objectives: This course offers an introduction to the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will examine the historical development of these faiths, highlighting the rich diversity within each tradition across various cultural and historical contexts. Students will engage with the critical academic study of religion, distinguishing it from confessional approaches, and will be encouraged to reflect on their own perspectives and biases when analyzing religious phenomena. By the end of the course, students will have a nuanced understanding of these religions and an appreciation for the complex ways in which they have shaped, and continue to influence, the world.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should have a solid understanding of the basic facts related to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, including their histories and the key terms associated with their beliefs and practices. They will gain insight into the academic study of religion and develop the ability to think critically about religion as a human, historical, and cultural phenomenon. Additionally, students will be equipped to explain the significant diversity that exists within each of these religions. Furthermore, students will learn to recognize their own

situated-ness and personal biases, allowing them to approach the study of religion with greater self-awareness and intellectual integrity.

Welcoming Classroom Commitment: In this online course, each of us brings diverse backgrounds and experiences, which will shape how we engage with the course material. While we won't be engaging in direct discussions, it's important to maintain an atmosphere of respect and openness as we interact with the content. As you reflect on the material, I encourage you to be mindful of your own biases and assumptions, making room for diverse perspectives and ways of thinking. Together, we will strive to create a learning environment where everyone feels safe and respected in their exploration of the subject matter.

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.

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 two main instruments of evaluation. 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:

Reflection Paper #1 Reflection Paper #2	25%	Oct 7 (10%) Dec 2 (15%)
Quizzes	75%	Oct 7 (25%) Nov 4 (25%) Nov 29 (25%)

Quizzes (75%):

- Quizzes gauge your attentiveness

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- There will be a total of 3 Quizzes worth 25% each
 - Quiz #1 is due Monday, October 7th and covers Modules 1-4
 - Quiz #2 is due Monday November 4th and covers Modules 5-7
 - Quiz #3 is due Friday November 29th and covers Modules 8-11
- Quizzes can be found and completed on Brightspace
- Quizzes will have a combination of Multiple Choice, True/False, and Short Answer Questions.

NOTE: There are no makeups for missed quizzes. Students can complete their quizzes late up to 5 days after the deadline. A late penalty of -5% will be applied each day it is late up to 5 days after the deadline. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted for grading.

Reflection Papers (25%)

- The Reflection Papers are designed to help students recognize how their situated-ness and personal biases influence their interpretations of religious phenomena
- There are two reflection papers:
 - Reflection Paper #1 is due Oct 7th and is worth 10%
 - Reflection Paper #2 is due Dec 2nd and is worth 15%
- Reflection papers should be no longer than 300 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 5 days after the deadline. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted for grading.

Required Readings

Textbook

Zeba A. Crook, *Religions of a Single God*. (Sheffield, UK: Equinox, 2019)

Note: The Textbook is available for purchase at the University Bookstore or directly through the publisher: <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/religions-single-god/> . There is also a FREE online version available through the library.

Additional Readings

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

FAQs

1. **Do I have to attend live meetings?** No. This course is entirely Asynchronous. Students will complete the Modules and their components independently.
2. **Do I need the textbook?** Yes. There is a free online version available through the Carleton Library and can also be ordered online through the University Bookstore (they price match).
3. **Are there any weekly activities that I need to complete?** Yes. Students should complete the respective weekly module and its required readings prior to the release of the next module. Students will be tested on course material through three online quizzes. See Brightspace for a complete list of all required readings, videos, and activities.
4. **What if I miss a Quiz?** There are no makeups for missed quizzes. Students have up to 5 days to complete a quiz late. Late submissions are subject to a -5% penalty each day they are late up to 5 days after the deadline. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted for grading.
5. **Are there any assignments to complete?** Yes. There are two short Reflection Papers. The first is worth 10% and is due October 7th. The second is worth 15% and is due December 2nd. Late submissions are subject to a -5% penalty each day they are late up to 5 days after the deadline. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted for grading.
6. **Is there a final exam?** No. There is no final exam.
7. **What is the best way to reach you?** Email, Office Hours, or the “Ask the Instructor Q&A” online forum on Brightspace.

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SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS, and ACTIVITIES

WEEK 1

Available: September 3

Welcome!

READ: Course Syllabus and Instruments of Evaluation

COMPLETE: Syllabus Quiz: Must be completed to access course modules

COMPLETE: Student Introductions (see Brightspace for more details)

WEEK 2

Available: September 10

Module 1

Studying Religion

READ: Crook, Chapter 1

COMPLETE: Module 1 on Brightspace

WEEK 3

Available: September 17

Module 2

History of Judaism

READ: Crook, Chapter 2

COMPLETE: Module 2 on Brightspace

WEEK 4

Available: September 24

Module 3

History of Christianity

READ: Crook, Chapter 3

COMPLETE: Module 3 on Brightspace

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Quiz #1 (25%) – Due at 23:59, Monday 10/07
Reflection Paper #1 (10%) – Due at 23:59, Monday 10/07

Module 4 **History of Islam**
READ: Crook, Chapter 4
COMPLETE: Module 4 on Brightspace

WEEK 6

Available: October 8

Module 5 **Jewish Orthodoxies**
READ: Crook, Chapter 5
COMPLETE: Module 5 on Brightspace

WEEK 7

Available: October 15

Module 6 **Christian Orthodoxies**
READ: Crook, Chapter 6
COMPLETE: Module 6 on Brightspace

WEEK 8

READING WEEK: October 21-25

WEEK 9

Available: October 29

Module 7 **Muslim Orthodoxies**
READ: Crook, Chapter 7
COMPLETE: Module 7 on Brightspace

Quiz #2 (25%) – Due at 23:59, Monday 11/04

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WEEK 10

Available: November 5

Module 8

Jewish Orthopraxies

READ: Crook, Chapter 8

COMPLETE: Module 8 on Brightspace

WEEK 11

Available: November 12

Module 9

Christian Orthopraxies

READ: Crook, Chapter 9

COMPLETE: Module 9 on Brightspace

WEEK 12

Available: November 19

Module 10

Muslim Orthopraxies

READ: Crook, Chapter 10

COMPLETE: Module 10 on Brightspace

WEEKS 13 & 14

Available: November 26

Module 11

Special Topic(s)

See Brightspace for more information and a list of special topics to choose from.

COMPLETE: Module 11 on Brightspace

Quiz #3 (25%) – Due at 23:59, Friday November 29
Reflection Paper #2 (15%) – Due at 23:59, Monday December 2