

College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI 1710A

Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

**Professor:** Dr. Andrea D. Lobel

**Email:** Andrea.Lobel@carleton.ca

**Class times:** Mon/Wed 6:05-8:55 pm

**Class location:** C264 LA

**Drop-in office hours:** Wed, 4:00-6:00 pm,  
310A Paterson Hall

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of western religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as new religious movements in the west that emerged from these faiths. No previous knowledge about these religions is assumed. We will also explore the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these religious traditions. The course will introduce students to religion as an academic field – that is, a non-confessional (i.e., not based on faith) approach to the study of religious history, beliefs, and rituals.

To benefit from this course, and to excel in it, you're asked not only to read and/or view the assigned material, but to engage with the material in class discussions. In this course, you'll write two papers. The first will be based on a visit to a religious service in a tradition that differs from your own, and the format of the second is your choice: Either a topic-focused term paper, or a creative assignment that addresses a topic we've covered in the course. For example, students may choose to prepare a short graphic novel style assignment or write a play. (More information about this will be provided in class, and in writing on CULearn.)

It's vital to mention that this class isn't designed to make students feel pressure to change their religious points of view. Rather, it's intended as an introduction to the history, literature, people, culture, and politics of the formative western religious traditions we'll survey, and to broaden students' understanding of these faiths. In order to do this, you're asked to engage with the material and participate in class discussions in the spirit of respect and curiosity.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students should:

- ✓ know the basic facts about the western religions taught in the course materials and in class, including their foundational histories, beliefs, rituals, and vocabulary
- ✓ understand various methods and theories used in the academic study of western religious traditions.
- ✓ have developed their writing and critical thinking skills.
- ✓ demonstrate sound research skills and proper citation styles in their assignments.

## COURSE METHODOLOGY

*This classroom is an inquiry-friendly zone.*

The course will consist of lectures, in-class experiential learning exercises, and audio-visual material. Class participation and discussion are strongly encouraged, as valuable aspects of the learning process.

Please know that you need not have all the answers at your fingertips in order to make a contribution to class discussions; rather, asking interesting questions and engaging in debate can be of tremendous use as you engage with the course material. In this class, thoughtful questions and comments are very much welcome, and the process will enrich your understanding of the material, as well as that of your classmates.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

John L. Esposito, Darrell J. Fasching, and Todd T. Lewis. *Religions of the West Today*. Fourth Edition (2017) (Available at the Carleton Bookstore)

*Any other required readings or audiovisual materials will be supplied via CULearn or ARES.*

## EVALUATION

**In-class test 1, Wednesday, July 18**

**Value: 15%**

**Reflective paper:** Observation of a religious service in a new-to-you tradition (Approx. 6-7 pgs., double-spaced).

Guidelines will be provided in class.

Due at the beginning of class, **Wednesday, July 25**

**Value: 30%**

**In-class test 2, Wednesday, August 8**

**Value: 15%**

**Topic-focused term paper or creative project:**

(Approx. 6-7 pgs., double-spaced)

Guidelines will be provided in class.

Due at the beginning of class, **Wednesday, August 15**

**Value: 30%**

**Attendance: Value: 10%**

**N.B. The use of Internet web sites as sources or citations is not permitted.**

## ATTENDANCE, READINGS, AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. To succeed in the course, regular attendance is strongly recommended. Students are asked to read the assigned chapters and/or view/listen to audiovisual materials before each class, as participation in class discussions is dependent upon this prior preparation.

N.B. A missed test or exam will be assigned a mark of “0” unless a valid explanation is provided (e.g., a medical note or other evidence).

*Assignments submitted late without valid medical or other documentation will lose 5 assignment percentage points per day.*

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Subject to minor changes, with prior notice.*

- Week 1: Wednesday, July 4:** Course introduction and overview of requirements; *Religions of the West Today*, Chapter 1 (pp. xv-33): **Introduction: Understanding world religions in global perspective:** The study of world religions; the sacred, myth, scripture, beliefs, and ritual; religious leadership, religious stories; what scholars of religion do; historical overview; Term-paper prep: How to write and cite
- Week 2: Monday, July 9:** *Religions of the West Today*, Chapter 3 (pp. 67-81): **The many stories of Judaism:** Sacred and secular: Modern Judaism and Haredi Judaism; the State of Israel; Israelite religion and the Hebrew Bible, the destruction of the Second Temple, post-exilic Judaism
- Wednesday, July 11:** *Religions of the West Today*, Chapter 3 (pp. 81-98): **The many stories of Judaism:** The shift from Israelite religion to rabbinic Judaism; the Classical period (500 CE-1729 CE); test review
- Week 3: Monday, July 16:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 3 (pp. 98-123): **Medieval and Modern Judaism;** Jewish mysticism/Kabbalah, Hasidic Judaism; Religious and secular Jewish groups; women in Judaism; the Holocaust (Shoah) and the Jewish world after the Holocaust; **In-class short film:** *A Holocaust survivor tells her story.*
- Wednesday, July 18: In-class test #1.** “The parting of the ways” between early Christianity and Judaism; in-class experiential exercise
- Week 4: Monday, July 23:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 4 (pp. 125-141): **Christian diversity and the road to modernity 1:** Christian belief – an overview; modernism vs. fundamentalism; Premodern Christianity (31-1517 CE): The New Testament and the life of Jesus. Who was Jesus? The parting of the ways between early Christianity and Judaism. **Additional readings on CULearn or ARES.**

**Wednesday, July 25:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 4 (pp. 141-156): **Christian diversity and the road to modernity 2:** Christian anti-Judaism; the early Church, east and west; Medieval Christianity; the Crusades and the Inquisition. **View before class:** *Christianity from Judaism to Constantine: Crash Course World History #11* (Link available on CULearn)

**Week 5:** **Monday, July 30:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 4 (pp. 156-181): **Christianity and Modernity (1517-1962):** Millennialism; the Protestant Reformation; Christianity and Postcolonialism (1962-); women in Christianity; religious pluralism.

**Wednesday, August 1:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 5 (pp. 183-223): **Islam: The many faces of the Muslim experience:** Premodern Islam: The life of Muhammad; the Quran; the expansion of Islam; Sunni and Shia; mysticism; the Five Pillars; women in Islam; the Crusades. **View before class:** *Introduction to Islam: Khan Academy* (Link available on CULearn)

**Week 6:** **Monday, August 6:** Civic holiday. University closed.

**Wednesday, August 8:** *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 5 (pp. 223-259): **Islam and Modernity 1:** Modern Islamic Revivalist Movements; radical Islam; *Jihad*; the post 9/11 world; Islam in the West; In-class video/TED Talk: *I'm bored of talking about Muslim women*, Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan; In-class debate; **In-class test #2**

**Week 7:** **Monday, August 13:** **Islam and Modernity 2:** Islamic law, and legal reform. *Religions of the West Today*, chapter 6 (pp. 261-292): **Globalization: from new to new age religions.** New religious movements related to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: The Baha'i faith; Scientology; Theosophy, Christian Science, and the Unity School of Christianity; Mormonism; Jehovah's Witnesses.

**Wednesday, August 15:** Last day of classes. **The Postmodern Challenge:** Atheism and Humanism; western religion and globalization; **In-class video/TED Talk:** *Militant atheism*, Richard Dawkins; class debate. **Additional readings on CULearn or ARES.** Wrap-up and questions; **Final projects due at the beginning of class.** In-class celebration.



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### 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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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, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the 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 [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the 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 [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## 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. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. 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.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## 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).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## 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.

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. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

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 [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)