

Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

RELI 1710 A (Fall 2025)

Religion
College of the Humanities

Professor Z.A. Crook

I can help you! But only if you let me know you need help.

By Email: send me your questions and concerns: zeba.crook@carleton.ca

By Zoom: Email me about a Zoom session and I will set up a meeting with you.

Course delivery note: This course is **exclusively asynchronous** and entirely on-line. All lectures will be recorded and released to the students for them to watch and take notes from, along with reading and taking notes from the textbook. All quizzes are multiple-choice and will be administered through Brightspace. There will be no writing assignments.

Course Objective

This course presumes no previous knowledge about Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. However, many students arrive with things they know, and things they think they know, about these three religions. Learning about a religion from an academic as opposed to a confessional approach can require some students to learn some new things, other students sometimes to learn old things differently, and others to relearn things. It can take, for some students, a thick skin. This material is taught in a critical, historical, but most importantly also a non-judgemental manner. We will focus on the historical development of these religions, their complex array of competing beliefs, and the many practices of the smaller groups that make up each religion. You should never feel pressured to change your religious perspective, nor should you pressure each other to do so.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should:

- know the basic facts about the religions covered in the course, namely their histories and the vocabulary pertaining to their beliefs and practices
- understand the academic study of religion
- be able to think critically about religion as a human, historical, and cultural phenomenon
- be able to explain the great diversity that exists within each religion

Religion Program Learning Objectives

This course contributes towards the Program Learning Objectives. By the end of a degree in Religion, students should:

- be able to employ the methods of the academic study of religion, which stresses outsider discourse, methodological atheism, and the ability to differentiate between advocacy and the critical study of religion
- be able to describe the history of and relationship among the major religions of the world in their local and global contexts
- be able to examine characteristic features and experiences of religious people in a global environment
- be able to describe the integral role of religion as a category helping to shape cultures, identities, political systems, and public life
- be able to demonstrate religious literacy, which includes facility in terminology native to religions as well as to the discipline

Course Evaluation

Quiz 1 – Method and Theory – 15% (open 6am Sept 12 —11pm Sept 14)

Quiz 2 – History – 20% (open 6am—11pm Oct 19)

Quiz 3 – Orthodoxies – 25% (open 6am—11pm EDT, Nov 12)

Quiz 4 – Orthopraxies/LDS/Baha'i –30% (Exam date and time will be set by Exam Services)

Required Textbook

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

Ordered through the Carleton Bookstore. Also available from the publisher for \$50 USD:

<https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/religions-single-god/>

Email Communication

- This is an entirely on-line course. Email is my only way to contact you, and Carleton's Connect e-mail is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. Therefore, you must check your Carleton email daily (at least). All communications sent to your Carleton address are official, and you are expected to get them. It is not an option to claim you did not get some announcement or request because you have another email address or took a break from email. You can configure your Connect account to forward university emails to another address, but you

must be reachable through your Connect account. Also, any communication between you and me involving your personal information (like grades) must originate from a Connect account (FIPPA).

Module, Reading, and Evaluation Schedule/Due Dates

Though this course is 100% asynchronous, consider following the schedule below for watching the Brightspace lectures.

	Course Introduction
	Video Modules: Module 1: Course Introduction
	Method and Theory Reading: Chapter 1 Video Modules: Module 2: What is Religion? Module 3: The Contemporary Study of Religion Module 4: Defining Religion
Quiz 1	Method and Theory Quiz (Modules 2-4 + Assigned Textbook Readings) Open 6am Sept 12— 11pm Sept 14
	Histories
	History of Judaism Reading: Part 1 Intro + Chapter 2 Video Modules:

Module 5: What is Jewish History?
 Module 6: Second Temple Judaism
 Module 7: Rabbinic Judaism
 Module 8: Persecution
 Module 9: Holocaust and Zionism

History of Christianity

Reading:

Chapter 3

Video Modules:

Module 10: What is Christian History?
 Module 11: Constantine
 Module 12: Creeds
 Module 13: Holy Roman Empire
 Module 14: Protestant Reformation
 Module 15: Christian Colonialism

History of Islam

Reading:

Chapter 4

Video Modules:

Module 16: What is Islamic History?
 Module 17: The Caliphate
 Module 18: The Battle for Succession
 Module 19: Umayyads and Abbasids
 Module 20: Mongolian and Christian Colonialism

Quiz 2

History Quiz
 (Modules 5-20 + Assigned Textbook Readings)
 Open 6am—11pm Oct 19

Orthodoxies

Jewish Theologies

Reading:

Part 2 Intro + Chapter 5

Video Modules:

Module 21: Foundational Jewish Theology
 Module 22: Core Jewish Theological Ideas
 Module 23: Tanakh
 Module 24: Talmud

Christian Theologies

Reading:

Chapter 6

Video Modules:

Module 25: Foundational Christian Theology
 Module 26: Core Christian Theological Ideas
 Module 27: The New Testament
 Module 28: Thomas Aquinas

Islamic Theologies

Reading:

Chapter 7

Video Modules:

Module 29: Foundational Islamic Theology
 Module 30: Core Islamic Theological Ideas
 Module 31: Sufism
 Module 32: Qur'an and Hadiths

Quiz 3

Orthodoxies Quiz
 (Modules 21-32 + Assigned Textbook Readings)
 Open 6am—11pm Nov 12

Orthopraxies

Jewish Practices

Reading:

Part 3 Intro + Chapter 8

Video Modules:

Module 33: Religio-Cultural Practice
Module 34: Jewish Schools of Practice
Module 35: Distinctive Jewish Practices
Module 36: Jewish Holy Days
Module 37: Jewish Culture

Christian Practices

Reading:

Chapter 9

Video Modules:

Module 38: The question of practice for Christians
Module 39: Sacraments
Module 40: Holy Days
Module 41: Christian Culture

Islamic Practices

Reading:

Chapter 10

Video Modules:

Module 42: Meaning and Structure of Shari'ah
Module 43: Arkan
Module 44: Holy Days
Module 45: Islamic Culture

The Continuing History of Religions

LDS and Baha'i

Reading:

Part 4 Intro + Chapter 11

Video Modules

Module 46: LDS History
Module 47: LDS Theology
Module 48: LDS Practice
Module 49: Baha'i History
Module 50: Baha'i Theology
Module 51: Baha'i Practice

Conclusions Video Module

Module 52: The Study of Religion

Quiz 4

Orthopraxies/LDS/Baha'i/Conclusion Quiz (Modules 33-52 +
Reading)

Open: During Exam Period (Date TBA)

Quiz Information

- There will be four Brightspace quizzes
- Quiz 1 will be available for three days
- Quiz 2 and Quiz 3 will be available for 1 day
- Because Quiz 4 must be scheduled by Exam Services, it will appear to be available on a specific day for 1.5 hours. But I will make the quiz available over the entire day (as with Quizzes 2-3)

Quiz 1

- Will cover the Method and Theory modules (2-4)
- 20 multiple choice questions in 30 mins
- Worth: 15% of course grade
- Timing: Quiz will be available in Brightspace 6am Sept 12 – 11pm Sept 14

Quiz 2

- Will cover the History modules (5-20)
- 50 multiple choice questions in 60 mins
- Worth: 20% of course grade
- Timing: Quiz will be available in Brightspace 6am – 11pm Oct 19

Quiz 3

- Will cover the Theology modules (21-32)
- 50 multiple choice questions in 60 mins
- Worth: 25% of course grade
- Timing: Quiz will be available in Brightspace 6am – 11pm November 12

Quiz 4

- Will cover the Practice modules, the LDS/Baha'i modules, and the concluding module (33-52)
- 70 multiple choice questions in 90 mins
- Worth: 30% of course grade
- Timing: To be set by Exam Services
 - NOTE: though this quiz happens during the final exam period, and for that reason must be formally scheduled by the university, **don't stress**: it is NOT a final exam. It is merely the fourth of four quizzes.

Medical Notes and Extensions

- Asynchronous delivery allows me to be extremely flexible with quiz dates.
- You may ask for a different quiz day for any reason: you do not need to explain, I do not need medical documentation. But you must let me know so that the quiz you're requesting can be made available to you. Having said that, there are two caveats:
 - 1) The schedule I have set out is the best way to progress through the course. It can be more difficult doing the quizzes out of order or overlapping the material. So, do your best (for your own benefit) to follow the schedule.
 - 2) Quizzes 1-3 must be completed **no more than three days** after Quiz 4 (the date of which is set by Exam Services, NOT by me). This is because the university will be demanding course grades from me.

Quizzes: the quizzes are open book. You are strongly encouraged to use your notes, and the textbook, and the slides to help you write the quizzes. However, you are not permitted to reproduce the questions (either by taking screen shots/photos of the questions or by typing them out). Brightspace creates different quizzes for each student. Because no two exams are the same, writing in groups on Discord (or similar social media platforms) is pointless. And there are so many questions in such a short time that you'll want to be free to focus on your own quiz. Writing in groups will only slow you down. The quizzes have been designed in a way to limit the benefit of unauthorized collaboration. But if you have prepared well and have your course materials ready, they should be pretty easy.

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

(Updated July 21, 2025)

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](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) 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

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