

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program

RELI 1710A: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM



INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Pettipiece, PhD (Timothy_Pettipiece@carleton.ca)

WHEN: Mondays and Wednesdays (17:35-20:25)

WHERE: Minto Centre 5050

OFFICE HOURS: After Wed. class or by appointment – (2A40 PA)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course aims to introduce students to the history and literature of the three great monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In particular, the course will examine key aspects of the social, literary, cultural, and intellectual development of these three interrelated traditions from their origins through to modern times. Special attention will be given to reading a diversity of primary texts (in translation), thereby allowing some of the key figures of these religious traditions to speak in their own voices. Students will be required to engage these primary texts critically, to appreciate the diversity of opinions within and across traditions, and to situate them in a broad socio-historical context. Since this material will be approached from a *non-confessional*, Religious Studies perspective, students are invited to set aside their preconceptions in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of the development of this hugely influential family of religions. [**Please note that attempts to disrupt this secular learning environment by religious activism of any kind will not be tolerated].

TEXTBOOKS:

Willard Oxtoby, *World Religions: Western Traditions* (2nd edition; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006) ISBN-10: 0-19-541520-5 (required)

-a comprehensive historical treatment of the major “western” world religions

EVALUATION:

Test on Part I (May 26): 25% (multiple choice)

Test on Part II (June 9): 25% (multiple choice)

Book Review (June 21): 25% (see below* for details)

Final Exam: 25% (multiple choice & short essay)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES:

PART I: NEW FAITHS IN AN OLD WORLD

MAY 10 M ☆ JUDAISM I: A PEOPLE APART

-From Eden to Exile (Read: *Religions*, 33-57)

-Resistance and Rebellion (Read: *Religions*, 57-71)

MAY 12 W † CHRISTIANITY I: FROM CHRIST TO CONSTANTINE

-Christian Origins (Read: *Religions*, 201-214)

-Orthodoxy and Heresy (Read: *Religions*, 214-223;)

MAY 17 M ☪ ISLAM I: OUT OF ARABIA

-From Mecca to Medina (Read: *Religions*, 341-368)

-Rival Claims (Read: *Religions*, 368-383)

MAY 19 W RELIGION & FILM I: TBA

PART II: CONFLICT AND CONSENSUS

MAY 24 M (Victoria Day Holiday): no class!

MAY 26 W ☆ **JUDAISM II: A NEW JUDAISM**
Test I
-Rise of the Rabbis (Read: *Religions*, 71-91)
-Scholars and Mystics (Read: *Religions*, 91-107)

MAY 31 M † **CHRISTIANITY II: A HOUSE DIVIDED**
-Councils and Creeds (Read: *Religions*, 223-241)
-Scholars and Mystics (Read: *Religions*, 241-269)

JUNE 2 W ☪ **ISLAM II: CONQUEST AND CULTURE**
-Islamic Civilization (Read: *Religions*, 420-436)
-Scholars and Mystics (Read: *Religions*, 383-420)

JUNE 7 M **RELIGION & FILM II: TBA**

PART III: THE ROAD TO MODERNITY

JUNE 9 W ☆ **JUDAISM III: A HOME FOR THE HOMELESS**
Test II
-Radicals and Reformers (Read: *Religions*, 108-130)
-The Road to Zion (Read: *Religions*, 130-150)

JUNE 14 M † **CHRISTIANITY III: REFORM AND RENEWAL**
-Radicals and Reformers (Read: *Religions*, 269-300)
-Renewal and Regret (Read: *Religions*, 300-331)

JUNE 16 W ☪ **ISLAM III: A NEW WORLD ORDER**
-Fragmentation and Marginalization (Read: *Religions*, 437-454)
-Radicals and Reformers (Read: *Religions*, 479-485)

JUNE 21 M ☆ † ☪ **CONCLUSIONS / RELIGION & FILM III: TBA**
-(Read: *Religions*, 495-507)

***BOOK REVIEW (Due on the final day of classes: JUNE 21):** At the end of each chapter in Oxtoby's *World Religions* book, you will find suggestions for "Further Reading." Select a book from one of these lists that really peaks your interest, find it in a local university library (remember there are three: Carleton, U of O, or Saint Paul, which has one of the best theology/religion libraries in North America), read it, then write a **5 page (double-spaced)** book review. In your review you must provide a summary of the book's content followed by a critical evaluation and reflection on that content. You may choose to address elements of style, argumentation, documentation, utility, clarity, personal impact, etc. Though you are not required to integrate additional sources into your review, anytime you make direct reference to something you learned from the book, you must note the page number (either in a footnote or in parentheses). Failure to do so will result in an automatic loss of 5%. Given the shorter length of this term, I recommend that you start as early as possible.

NOTE ON ATTENDANCE: In my experience, there is a high degree of correlation between class-attendance and success in the course. While no credit has been allocated for attendance, if you wish to get the most out of this course, then I strongly encourage you to attend as many lectures as possible.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

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.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from EARLY SUMMER courses is **JUNE 11, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER courses is **JULY 30, 2010**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of a disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to 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 visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: write to 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 visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you **only** require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th Floor Library