

## College of the Humanities Religion Program

### **RELI 1710A**

#### **Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

May-June 2011

Tuesday + Thursday 6:00-9:00pm

Southam 624

Professor Z. A. Crook

Paterson Hall 2a43

Office Hours: Tuesday + Thursday 4-5pm

Course Website: <http://http-server.carleton.ca/~zcrook/RELI1710Homepage.htm>

Email: [zeba.crook@gmail.com](mailto:zeba.crook@gmail.com)

### **Course Objective**

This course presumes no previous knowledge about Judaism, Christianity, or Islam, but it does presuppose a burning curiosity and a high motivation to learn about these three major religions, and an openness to learn in a non-judgmental way about how different people live their lives religiously. We will focus on the historical development, the beliefs, and the practices of each religion. Our approach will never be confessional, but historical and critical and above all respectful. You should never feel pressured to change your religious perspective, nor should you pressure each other to do so.

### **Evaluation**

WebCT Midterm 1 (Judaism) – 20% (Wednesday **May 25**; details below)

WebCT Midterm 2 (Christianity) – 20% (Wednesday **June 8**; details below)

Living Religion Assignment – 20% (2-3 pages; due Tuesday **June 16 in class**; details below)

**Must Pass** Final Exam – 40% (during early summer exam schedule: June 24-29; details below)

### **Texts**

Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the West*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2001) (also on reserve at the library – two hour loan).

If buying this book second-hand, be sure that you are buying the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the book.

### **Weekly Topics and Due Dates**

- The on-line version of the syllabus (see web address above) has PowerPoint slides for each lecture. You should print them out in order to have them in class with you.

May 10 Introduction to the Course

May 12 Judaism: History (Ludwig Ch. 6)

May 17 Judaism: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 7)

May 19	Judaism: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 8)
May 24	Christianity: History (Ludwig Ch. 9)
May 26	Christianity: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 10)
May 31	No Class
June 2	Christianity: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 11)
June 7	Islam: History (Ludwig Ch. 12)
June 9	Islam: Beliefs (Ludwig Ch. 13)
June 14	Islam: Practices and Observances (Ludwig Ch. 14)
June 16	Review + Course Conclusions

### Email Communication

- Carleton's Connect Mail is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. All communications sent by Connect 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. 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).

### Pre-Midterm Test Run

- May 23-24 there will be a chance for everyone to do a test run of the WebCT exam System: log in, answer a skill testing question, save the quiz, "Finish" the exam, and get the bonus mark.
- Doing all this correctly gets you a **1% bonus to the final mark**.
- It also ensures that you know how the WebCT exams work and what it all looks like in there so that at Midterm time there are no surprises or technical glitches.

### Midterm Exams

WebCT Midterm 1 (Judaism) – 20% (May 25)

WebCT Midterm 2 (Christianity) – 20% (June 8)

- Both of the midterms for this course will be conducted on WebCT.
- On the appropriate days, the midterm link on your WebCT page for this course will become active.
- You can write the midterm at any time between 1:00am and 11:00pm (EST). I've done this in order to allow you to write the exam even if you have a job, even if you are on the other side of the country or on the other side of the world. You can write the midterms from anywhere in the world on that day. For those of you in this position, keep in mind the timing operates by Eastern Standard Time (GMT -5).
- If you start the midterm at 10:55pm (for example), the system **WILL** let you finish. It will not shut off at 10:59pm. It's just that you cannot **start** the midterm after 10:59pm.
- You do not need to arrange for a proctor for the midterms, and you do not need to write the exams from a sanctioned place. You can write the exam from any computer you

want; just ensure you are someplace where you can concentrate and where you will not be disturbed.

- Each midterm will be available for 50mins exactly. Each quiz will be made up of 50 questions.
- Be sure NOT to sign into the quiz until you are prepared to write the exam uninterrupted, because there is no way to stop the clock once you have opened the exam. When the 50mins have elapsed, WebCT will end the quiz session, no matter what.
- Once you have started the quiz, the option of a rewrite is not available to you. If you are sick and do not wish to write the exam, the usual rules apply in terms of obtaining documentation. If you open the midterm, you have to write it then and there.
- Because the unpredictable happens, I suggest you do NOT leave writing the exam until the last minute. I can do some things to help on my end in the event of technical difficulties, but not late at night. In the event of technical difficulties (which I can verify on my end), my first recourse will be to reset your exam, and you do it again right away. So if you send me an email pleading for help; stay close to your email because help is never far away, and you will be expected to write the exam within the original time frame.
- Also, any student who has technical difficulties but did not bother to do the Pre midterm test-run will receive no mercy. The whole point of the test-run is to ensure your computer can function in the WebCT exam.
- Both midterms will cover material drawn from the textbook and the lectures, not primarily one or the other.

#### Sample Questions:

- 1) Abraham built the first temple for the Jews. True or False?
- 2) Which early council decided that the Word was the same as God?
  - a. Vatican I
  - b. Vatican II
  - c. Chalcedon
  - d. Nicea

#### **Living Religion Assignment (Due Jun 16; 20% of final mark)**

- 2-3 pages (double-spaced and absolutely no longer than 3 pages)
- Choose **ONLY ONE** religion for which to do the assignment. Do not do more than one assignment, and do not combine religions.
- **Judaism: Living an Orthodox Sabbath**
  - **Choose any sundown Friday – sundown Saturday before the due date**
  - Things you should try NOT to do:
    - not turn a light, but you can leave certain lights on (choose carefully), or use candles (with caution!)
    - no tearing toilet paper (torn in advance)
    - no cooking food (but if you have a crock pot with food in it you can leave it on, but don't burn your house down!)
    - no driving
    - no doing dishes, house cleaning, or other chores
    - no buying anything (you cannot use money at all)
    - no listening to radio, no TV, no use of computer, iPod, telephone, cell

- phone
    - no riding bikes or other recreational activities
    - you can sing, but can't play an musical instrument
    - no homework, but non-work reading is okay (as long as you don't take notes or write)
  - Things you should try to do:
    - whatever you eat, try to eat in a conservative kosher manner, avoiding the obvious things (pork, shellfish, mixing milk and meat in the same meal, bugs, and food sacrificed to idols), but you do not have to ensure the rest of your food is kosher or worry about using two sets of dishes for milk and meat.
    - eat Sabbath supper with family and friends (both if possible)
    - sit, talk, laugh, celebrate, spend "quality" time with your significant other
    - On Saturday, eat whenever you normally would (this is not a fast), visit with friends who live within walking distance, go to a park, go for a short walk, socialise, nap, read a book, relax, reflect, meditate, think about the world, think about the environment and your effect on it.
    - Say good bye to the Sabbath at sundown
      - In your reflection, consider how you found Sabbath observance: freeing? a burden?
      - Consider what it was like to limit consumption. How much do we take for granted in our world? How much do we consume (energy, food) in a day? Do we really need everything we consume?
- **Living the Sermon on the Mount for Three days**
  - Choose any three consecutive days before the due date
  - Ways to live according to the sermon on the mount:
    - Avoid the appearance of wealth and power (Matt 5:5)
    - Be just and merciful in all things (5:6-7)
    - Think pure thoughts (5:8)
    - Actively find ways to foster peace (5:9)
    - DON'T try to get beat up (Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you)
    - Do not be angry with or insult others in any way (5:22-24)
    - If you have wronged someone recently, set things right (5:225-26)
    - Do not look at another person with lust (5:27)
    - DON'T blind or maim yourself (5:29-30)
    - Do not break up with anyone in this time (5:31-32)
    - Turn the other cheek, if anything is asked of you, give it, give to everyone who begs from you (5:39-42; 6:2)
    - Love your enemies (5:44-48)
    - Avoid worrying about things you cannot control (5:25-34)
    - Don't judge others (7:1)
    - Don't be hypocritical (7:2-5)
    - Treat others as you would like to be treated (7:12)

- Christians often seek to do what Jesus would do. Taking the Sermon on the Mount as an example of what Jesus would do, what do you think?
  - Also, consider this: was the Sermon on the Mount intended to be a *practical* guide to daily living for regular people, or do you think it set up an impossible ideal?
- **Three Day Ramadan**
    - Choose any three consecutive days before the due date
    - Fast starts at sundown on day 1, and ends at sundown three days later.
    - On each of the three evenings prior to a day of fasting, you should state out loud, to yourself or to others, that you are fasting (and not for instance accidentally missing meals).
    - If you want to eat on the morning of a fast, eating must be completed **before sunrise**. You can also eat as soon as the sun sets. It is universally acknowledged that eating small meals at sunset and sundown (and not pigging out) will make the fast easier. Likewise, eating good foods (proteins, nuts, dried fruit) will make things easier (as opposed to potato chips and ice cream).
    - Remember the fast is complete: no food in any form (which includes gum and candies as well as food you “eat”), no drink in any form, not even brushing your teeth, since it is impossible not to swallow tooth paste or the water you rinse your mouth out with.
    - Ramadan is a time not only of fasting, but of purity.
    - Between sunrise and sunset in your fast you should avoid all sensual pleasures: not just food and drink (in all forms), but smoking, sexual thoughts, sex, anger, jealousy.
    - In keeping with Islam, when you do eat, avoid pork and any form of alcohol.
      - Write about the experience.
      - Imagine you had to do it for a whole month.
      - What sort of role do you think fasting plays in spirituality or religion?

### Instructions for written assignments

- NOTE: You MUST choose an assignment in a different religion from your own. If you were raised in a Christian, Jewish, or Muslim household, you cannot do an assignment in your own tradition, even if you claim to be agnostic or no longer practicing. Be prepared to explain your decision if I question it.
- \*Papers cannot be submitted electronically.
- Regardless of which assignment you choose, it is due **June 16 in class**.
- Assignments must be 2-3 pages, no longer and no shorter. They must be double-spaced, 12 point font, with standard 1 inch margins. The manipulation of these things in order to make a longer paper appear shorter is unacceptable. Efficiency of language and focus on a task are required for working within assigned page or word limitations.
- Late Penalties: **Written assignments are due on the specified date**. There will be a penalty of 2% per day (including weekends) from the mark of your paper unless an extension has been arranged **before the due date**. Retroactive extensions will be granted only according to the rules of the university: personal and family emergencies (for which

documentation must be provided). Extensions will not be granted because of essay or exam conflicts, busy schedules, jobs, life, etc.

- Late papers must be placed in the Religion and Classics Drop Box (a large locked wooden box on the wall outside 2a39 Paterson Hall). Do not slip papers under my door, or any one else's door: the cleaning staff may pick them up and throw them out. Do not hand them to anyone. Late papers cannot expect to be marked as quickly as papers submitted on time.
- Proof-read your work several times before handing it in, or ask someone whose writing skills are strong to do it. Needless and countless errors of spelling, grammar, and syntax are a serious impediment to effective writing and communication, and these *will* affect your grade. Take a low grade in this section seriously, as the expectations of writing quality in university become greater and greater each year.
- Papers that venture too far from these requirements and limits (by page limits, appearance, or content) may be returned ungraded for resubmission (and late penalties will accrue from the due date, regardless of when the problem is discovered). Therefore, read the directions carefully and follow them.
- Retain Copies of Work Submitted: It is crucial that you retain a hard copy of all assignments/take home tests submitted in every course. Also remember to do a computer/disk back-up. Please submit originals for marking, however, not photocopies. Papers **cannot** under any circumstances be submitted electronically (i.e., by email), but must be printed and submitted as hard copy.

**Final Exam** (40% of final mark; Date to be announced by the University)

- The final exam is a traditional scantron/multiple choice exam, not a WebCT exam. It will be proctored, with no study guides, and will be scheduled by the university during the summer examination period.

**You MUST pass the final exam in order to pass this course**

- If you fail the Final Exam (get 49.5% or lower), you will receive an F in the course, regardless of how impressive your previous work has been. Even if you go into the final exam with a 99% average, you **MUST** still pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

The Final Exam will have two parts.

- **Part One** will be 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions on Islam (in the same form as the mid-terms on Judaism and Christianity)
- **Sample Question:**

Which of the following is not a holy city to Muslims?

- a. Medina
- b. Jerusalem
- c. Cairo
- d. Mecca

- **Part Two** will be another 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Some of them will be comparative, comparing some aspects of the religion between and among all three religions covered in this course, and some of them will be about just Judaism or Christianity.
- **Sample Question:**

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic religions. True or False?

- The final exam will comprise 40% of your total mark.
- The final exam will be drawn from the text book and the lectures equally. The date, time, and place of the exam is selected by the university, not by me. Watch for information as the exam schedule becomes available.

## 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. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
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 21, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 16, 2011**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

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 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: [carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/](http://carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
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/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library