VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
Tuesdays and Thursdays 16:05 - 17:35

Dr. Timothy Pettipiece
Office Hours: Fri. 10:00-1:00 (Room 2A35 Paterson Hall)
Course Email: Timothy.Pettipiece@carleton.ca

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In spite of claims that we live in a secular and post-religious world, religion and religious questions continue to be at the heart of major social, academic, and political debates. This course will explore the relevance of religion in the contemporary context and examine the various ways in which human beings experience and attempt to describe the “religious”, “spiritual”, “sacred”, or “holy”. The core themes will be explored from a comparative angle, using examples taken from a range of different traditions and perspectives.

EVALUATION:
Response Paper I  Nov 3  25% (on a film from the list below)
Response Paper II  Dec 1  25% (on a book from the list below)
Midterm Exam  Oct 22  20% (on first half of course material)
Final Exam  20% (on second half of course material)
Class Participation  10% (attendance / participation in discussion groups)

REQUIRED TEXTS
Additional readings on CULearn

SEPT 3  INTRODUCTION
SEPT 8  COMPARATIVE PRACTICES
SEPT 10  Discussion: Idea of the Holy
SEPT 15  FROM THE BIBLE TO BUDDHISM
SEPT 17  Discussion: Way of Liberation
SEPT 22  THE SKILL OF REFLEXIVITY
SEPT 24  Discussion: Divine Language
SEPT 29  MYTH AND RITUAL
OCT 1  Discussion: Ritual
OCT 6  RELIGION, NATURE, SCIENCE
OCT 8  Discussion: “Thinking” God
OCT 13  SEX AND BODY
OCT 15  Discussion: Good and Evil
OCT 20  SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF RELIGION
OCT 22  MIDTERM
NOV 3  THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION
NOV 5  Discussion: Stairways to Heaven
NOV 10  THE END OF ALL THINGS
NOV 12  Discussion: Death and Dying
NOV 17  FAITHFUL RE-READINGS
NOV 19  Discussion: Know Thyself
NOV 24  RATIONAL RE-READINGS
NOV 26  Discussion: Digital religion?
DEC 1  REFLEXIVE RE-READINGS
DEC 3  Discussion: Post-religious?

Hymn of the Sufferer
KRIPAL CHAPTER 1
KRIPAL CHAPTER 2
KRIPAL CHAPTER 3
KRIPAL CHAPTER 4
KRIPAL CHAPTER 5
KRIPAL CHAPTER 6
KRIPAL CHAPTER 7
KRIPAL CHAPTER 8 (RP I DUE)
KRIPAL CHAPTER 9
KRIPAL CHAPTER 10
MEHER BABA Discourses
KRIPAL CHAPTER 11
DAVIS “The Spiritual Cyborg”
KRIPAL CHAPTER 12 (RP II DUE)
Humanist Manifesto
For each assignment, choose one item from the list. You are responsible for acquiring a copy of your
selected text/film.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSE PAPER I: FILM</th>
<th>RESPONSE PAPER II: TEXT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agora (2009)</td>
<td>Margaret Atwood, <em>A Handmaid’s Tale</em></td>
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<td>Persepolis (2007)</td>
<td>Friedrich Nietzsche, <em>The Antichrist</em></td>
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<td>Machine Gun Preacher (2011)</td>
<td>Frank Herbert, <em>Dune</em></td>
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<td>Soul Surfer (2011)</td>
<td>Martel, <em>Life of Pi</em></td>
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<td>The Seventh Seal (1957)</td>
<td>C. S. Lewis, <em>Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</em></td>
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<td>The Name of the Rose (1986)</td>
<td>Barbara Kingsolver, <em>The Poisonwood Bible</em></td>
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<td>The Apostle (1997)</td>
<td>Fyodor Dostoyevsky, <em>Brothers Karamazov</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Princess Mononoke (1997)</td>
<td>Thomas Merton, <em>The Seven Storey Mountain</em></td>
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*You cannot do the same book and film adaptation.*

**What a reader response paper is:**
A critical essay that expresses how a text/film deals with the issue of religion. It reflects a close reading/viewing of
the work, contains specific examples drawn from the work, and provides your well-considered opinion of the work’s
strengths and/or shortcomings. The essay demonstrates that you have read/watched the book/film, internalized and
contextualized its arguments/themes in light of the course material, and can articulate and substantiate your reactions
to it.

**What a reader response paper is NOT:**
- A descriptive summary of the book/film or of the historical events it describes.
- A research paper. You don’t have to consult any other sources.
- A classic “thesis” paper, in which you state a thesis argument at the front end and use the book/film to support this
thesis, reiterating the argument in the conclusion. The essay must have an organizing argument but it should be more
analytic than descriptive.
- An opportunity for general opinionating, nor an opportunity to make statements of opinion that are not supported
by evidence drawn from the text/film.
- A test of whether you had the “right” interpretation of the book/film. This is a venue for you to express what the
book means to you. It should display thoughtful evaluation of the text and express of how it may have contributed
(or not contributed) to your understanding of a particular period, and why.

**Ask yourself the following questions** as you prepare to write a reader response paper. You don’t need to include
the answers to these questions in your paper, but they can help you organize your thoughts and decide what you’d
like to write about in your response.

- What were the central religious themes of the book/film? Did the author/director, in your opinion, do a
decent job of following through on those themes? Why or why not?
- How does this book/film relate to what interests you about religion? What did you learn from it? If you
didn’t learn much, why was that? What questions did this text/film leave you with? What would you like to
learn more about?
Sample format for a reader response paper of 3-4 pages (double spaced):
1. **Introduction/theme**: 1-2 paragraphs that “set the stage” for what will follow.
2. **Background**: 2-3 paragraphs that introduce the book/film, its religious themes and the context in which it was written/produced.
3. **Analysis**: use the remainder of the paper to hone in on the religious aspects of the book/film and provide your opinion of them. The analysis should contain examples from the book/film to support your argument (cited with page numbers or time code).
4. **Conclusion**: one paragraph that states the wider significance of this work to you.

**RESPONSE PAPER EVALUATION**

**GENERAL CRITERIA DEFINITIONS**

**Length**: number of pages

**Presentation**: typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, standard margins, stapled

**Style**: proper grammar, spelling, and syntax

**Organization**: information is structured and presented in clear and readable manner

**Comprehension**: source material has been understood

**Critical Analysis**: critical reflection upon source material

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**Deductions**

**COMMENTS:**

**Total:**

*Late papers will receive a 5% deduction per day.*

**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).

**NOTE ON ATTENDANCE**

If you want to succeed in this course, then attending class and keeping up with readings is essential. Please note that this is not an independent reading course or self-directed study. You are ultimately responsible for all course material (readings and lectures).
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 can include a final grade of “F” for the course

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

- A+ = 90-100 (12)  B+ = 73-76 (8)
- A = 85-89 (11)    B = 70-72 (7)
- A- = 80-84 (10)   B- = 67-69 (6)
- B+ = 77-79 (9)    C+ = 63-66 (5)
- B = 73-76 (8)     C = 60-62 (4)
- B- = 70-72 (7)    C- = 57-59 (3)
- C+ = 67-69 (6)    D+ = 57-59 (3)
- C = 63-66 (5)     D = 50-52 (1)
- C- = 60-62 (4)    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 FALL TERM courses is DEC. 7, 2015. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 8, 2016.

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/

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 Nov. 6, 2015 for the Fall term and March 6, 2016 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the course instructor. Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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  4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125  4th Floor Library