

Carleton University

Winter 2024

**College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI 1710 B**

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

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

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

**Class times:** Asynchronous

**Class location:** Online

**Office hours:** TBA (or feel free to email)

**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. The course will introduce students to religious studies 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. The course will be taught from an historical, critical, non-judgmental perspective.

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 religions. 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. As a student in this class, you are also asked to adopt an open-minded, critical, scholarly perspective when encountering and engaging with the material, *and to put aside any preconceptions you may have about the religions we will be examining that you may have developed elsewhere as you learn.*

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 your assignments.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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
- ✓ recognize various methods and theories used in the academic study of western religious traditions.
- ✓ be able to think critically about religion as a human phenomenon, subject to historical and cultural development

- ✓ be able to explain the great diversity that exists within each religion
- ✓ have developed their writing and critical thinking skills.
- ✓ demonstrate sound research skills and proper citation styles in their assignments.

## RELIGION PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course contributes towards the Religion Program's 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 METHODOLOGY

This online asynchronous course will consist of lectures, readings, and audio-visual material. There will also be an optional, ungraded discussion forum on Brightspace, where your questions and discussions about the course are very much welcome, and will enrich your understanding of the material, as well as that of your classmates who read and participate on the forums. In this course, it will be important to ask interesting questions and present your analyses in your assignments to demonstrate your engagement with the course material.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Crook, Zeba A. (2019). *Religions of a single God a critical introduction to monotheisms from Judaism to Baha'i*. Equinox publishing:

Access freely available on the MacOdrum Library website, using your Carleton login credentials:

[https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL\\_CRL/hgdufh/alma991009174779705153](https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_CRL/hgdufh/alma991009174779705153)

*Any other required readings or audiovisual materials will be supplied via Brightspace and/or ARES*

## EVALUATION

1. **Quiz spanning weeks 1-5 inclusive: Week of Feb 12 (on Brightspace). Value: 10%**
2. **Video or audio assignment:** Commentary and analysis based on attending an *online* religious service in a new-to-you tradition. 6 minutes min to 8 minutes max.  
**Due on Brightspace, Friday, March 8, 2024, 5 pm. Value: 30%**  
*Guidelines will be provided on Brightspace*
3. **Reflective paper:** Compare and Contrast essay (1000-1200 words)  
**Due on Brightspace, Friday, April 5, 5 pm. Value: 30%**  
*Guidelines will be provided on Brightspace*
4. **Final exam (on Brightspace, during April examination period). Value: 30%**

## ON KEEPING UP WITH READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This is an online asynchronous course. The lectures will be given via screen captured videos, which will be available on Brightspace. To be successful in this course, keeping up with the assigned readings, viewing, listening, and assignment due dates is critical. Students are asked to read the assigned chapters and/or view/listen to audiovisual materials before viewing each class video recording.

N.B. A missed assignment 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.*

## A NOTE ON STUDENT WELL-BEING

As my student, your well-being is important to me. University can be stressful, and part of the job of being your professor is responding to you as a whole person, not just as a student working to earn marks.

Here are some recommendations to help you make the academic year a smoother one:

Take care of yourself. Do what you can to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well and exercising, avoiding illegal drugs, as well as avoiding or minimizing alcohol and marijuana, getting enough sleep, and taking some time to relax.

Meditation and yoga may also be useful, as they can help you better achieve your academic goals, and to cope with stress.

None of us is immune to life’s challenges. If you find yourself feeling stressed, you are far from alone! There are many useful resources available on campus, and an important part of the university experience is learning how to ask for help. If you or anyone you know experiences academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support sooner rather than later. Visit <https://carleton.ca/wellness/> to access useful resources both here at Carleton University and off-campus. As well, please consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for additional support.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

*Tentative; additional reading/viewing/listening TBA.*

**Week 1: Jan 8-12 2024: Lecture:** Course introduction and overview of requirements; how to write and cite

**Reading:** --

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 2: Jan 15-19:** The study of world religions; what religion scholars do; historical overview

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 1

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 3: Jan 22-26: Histories**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 2: History of Judaism

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 4: Jan 29-Feb 2: Histories**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 3: History of Christianity

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 5: Feb 5-9: Histories**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 4: History of Islam

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 6: Feb 12-16: Orthodoxies**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 5: Jewish Theology and Theological Writings

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Assignment: Quiz (W1-5 Content)**

**Week 7: Feb 19-23:** Winter break, no classes.

**Week 8: Feb 26-March 1: Orthodoxies**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 6: Christian Theology and Theological Writings

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 9: March 4-8: Orthodoxies**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 7: Islamic Theology and Theological Writings

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Assignment: Audio/Video Commentary (Due Friday)**

**Week 10: March 11-15: Orthopraxies**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 8: Jewish Practice and Holy Days

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 11: March 18-22: Orthopraxies**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 9: Christian Practice and Holy Days

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Week 12: March 25-28: Orthopraxies; exam prep.**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 10: Islamic Practice and Holy Days

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

### **Week 13: April 1-5: Western religions: The Next Generation**

**Readings:** *Religions of a Single God*, Chapter 11

**Viewing/Listening TBA**

**Assignment: Reflection Paper (Due Friday)**

### **Week 14: April 8-10: Wrap-up lecture; optional online Zoom gathering TBA**

**Assignment: Regularly Scheduled Final Exam**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ETHICS**

**Academic integrity is a very serious matter, and you will be expected to take it seriously as well.** Your assignments will be read carefully, to ensure that you have written them on your own, in your own words. A few guidelines to supplement Carleton University's academic integrity guidelines, which apply here:

- Do not share your writing assignments with classmates
- Do not use the words of others, whether it be those of scholars or online materials, without citing correctly to ensure that you are not presenting their words as your own (i.e., plagiarism)
- Please avoid websites that call themselves “plagiarism checkers”
- Be sure to consult <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/> for more information about academic integrity at Carleton University

## **A NOTE ON THE USE OF CHAT GPT**

Please avoid use of Chat GPT to prepare your assignments. Not only is it fairly easy for readers (including markers) to detect, but the AI is trained on the work of others, which is ethically problematic from both academic integrity and copyright perspectives.

# **University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses**

(Updated December 6<sup>th</sup> 2023)

## **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

**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, 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;
- 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; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

### *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.

The full Academic Integrity Policy can be found [here](#). More information on the process [here](#).

### **Academic Accommodation Policy**

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

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.

### ***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](#).

### ***Requests for 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 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. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details [click here](#).

**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).

### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

### Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/SCCASP-Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-Cleancopy-final-Sept-2022-2.pdf>

## Grading System at Carleton University

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 can be found [here](#). 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.

## 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](#).

1. 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.
  - a. 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](#).

## 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 Well\ness at Carleton

Discover the tools and resources Carleton offers to help understand, manage and improve your mental health and wellness while at university.

[Counselling](#)  
[Residence](#)  
[Counselling](#)  
[Supporting Your](#)  
[Mental Health](#)

## **Get Help Now** If in crisis call: Counselling Services: 613-520-6674 (press 2)

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### ***After Hours***

If you need assistance with an urgent situation outside of our regular operating hours, contact:

- [Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region](#): Available 24/7-365 days/year and is bilingual (English/French).
  - **Distress**: 613-238-3311 ○ **Crisis**: 613-722-6914 ○ **Text**: 343-306-5550 (available 10:00 am – 11:00 pm, 7 days/week, 365 days/year) ○ Web Chat: blue chat icon at the bottom right corner of the website.
  - Text Service is available in English only to residents of Ottawa & the Ottawa Region.)
- [Good2Talk](#): Available 24/7-365 days/year and is available in English, French and Mandarin
  - Call: **1-866-925-5454** ○ Text GOOD2TALKON to 686868 ○ [Facebook Messenger](#)
- [Empower Me](#): A 24/7 resource service for undergraduate students. 1-833-628-5589 (toll-free)
- International SOS's Emotional Support: Offers 24/7 access to mental health professionals in more than 60 languages through their dedicated line +1 215-942-8478. Students can call this number collect (the person being telephoned receives the charges) to access services.

## **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 Information**

### **Contact**

*Bachelor of the Humanities* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Greek and Roman Studies* 300 Paterson Hall  
[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Religion* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Graduate)* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)