

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2HR3
HUMOUR AND RELIGION
(DR. PHILIPPA CARTER, SUMMER 2018)**

Office: UH 114, ext. 23388
Hours: By appointment

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Starting with Freud's theoretical accounts, this course explores the ways in which scholars have analyzed the relationship between religion and humour.

COURSE GOALS:

- To explore how religion and humour inform the experience of being human
- To examine various theories regarding the origins and application of humour
- To evaluate how adequately these theories apply to the study of humour and religion

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To cultivate a critical approach to cultural perspectives on humour and on religion
- To learn how to apply theoretical models to cultural phenomena involving humour and religion

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Noel Carroll, *Humour: A Very Short Introduction*.
- John Morreall, *Comedy, Tragedy, Religion* (BL85 .M72 1999 EBook available in Mills).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Two In-Class or Take-Home Assignments @ 35% (These tests can be written collaboratively in class or individually outside of class time. They are designed to encourage critical reflection and assimilation of the materials covered in class.)
 - One Midterm
 - One Final Exam
- Attendance, Participation & Engagement 30% (Attendance is mandatory in this course. If you cannot attend you should not enroll in the course.)
 - Four Bi-Weekly Mini Assignments for Peer Review
 - Class Discussion and Interaction

COURSE CALENDAR:

DATE	TOPIC
June 19	Introduction
June 21	Theories of Humour READ: Carroll, ch. 1
June 26	Theories of Humour READ: Carroll, ch. 2
June 28	Humour, Religion and Morality READ: Carroll, ch. 3
July 3	Tragic Worldviews, READ: Morreall ch. 1 & 2
July 5	Comic Worldviews, READ: Morreall ch. 3
July 10	Comedy, Tragedy Religion, READ: Morreall ch. 4 & 5
July 12	Midterm Test
July 17	Asian Traditions and Humour, READ: Morreall, ch. 6
July 19	Asian Traditions and Humour
July 24	Abrahamic Traditions and Humour, READ: Morreall, ch. 7

July 26	Abrahamic Traditions and Humour, READ: Morreall, ch. 9
July 31	Wrap-Up and Review
Aug 2	Final Test

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140, ext. 2865 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the schedule outlined below.

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and post any changes to the course website).

MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015. The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days. The upper limit for which an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight. As per the policy, students must immediately follow up with their instructors to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Failure to do so may negate their relief. If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean's office. **MSAF is now available in MOSAIC Student Center (in the drop-down menu under Academics). Privacy Disclaimer:** By using this tool you understand that some personal information will be submitted to your Faculty Office. **PLEASE NOTE: In my classes all written work must be submitted. Submission of the MSAF defers the due-date to the last day of class. You do not need to contact me directly if you have submitted the MSAF.**

NOTE ON CHANGES IN THE COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

PERSONAL EMAIL POLICY

I no longer respond to grade queries submitted through email. If you need to discuss a grade in the course, please arrange to see me in person. I also do not respond to email messages regarding missed classes. Please arrange to acquire missed notes and other information from a fellow student.

LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND PHONES

There may be times when we will want to access the internet for a classroom activity. As a courtesy to those sitting near you please ensure that you are discreet and not a distraction to others when using your device(s). Please ensure that your cell phone is on "vibrate" before entering the classroom. (I too will try to remember this!)

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Please complete the required readings before class and come prepared to discuss them.
- Please plan to stay in the classroom for the duration of each class.
- For every three classes missed, no matter the reason, students will lose one third of their participation & engagement mark in this course.