

Preliminary Course Outline, subject to revisions

**Religious Studies 4SR3
Religion, Society, and Culture
Wednesdays, 11:30-2:30,
Fall 2020
Virtual classroom**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar, participants will read the work of, and engage with, faculty members in McMaster's Department of Religious Studies. Our goal is to explore the field's big questions and world-views from the perspective of those who have spent their professional lives researching and teaching religious studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This seminar aims to help students achieve:

- a clear understanding of the history and current configuration of the field of religious studies at McMaster University, in Canada, and internationally;
- the ability to clearly articulate the intellectual location of their own studies and interests with respect to the broader field of religious studies;
- an awareness of the benefits and ongoing challenges faced by scholars who study religion and religious phenomena.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS

Course readings will be available on Avenue.

CLASS FORMAT

Virtual classroom

This seminar will be conducted using Zoom on Wednesdays from 11:30-2:30 (occasionally, starting and ending times may vary slightly; please check Avenue in advance of our scheduled meetings). Students are expected to contribute to class discussions via Zoom during our scheduled time.

COURSE EVALUATION – OVERVIEW

60% Response papers (five papers, 12% each)

20% Participation and attendance

20% Presentations

COURSE EVALUATION - DETAILS

Response papers 60%

- **Five response papers, 12% each.**

Response papers should:

- locate the readings within the field of religious studies broadly and McMaster's Department of Religious Studies specifically;
- provide a summary of the readings;
- relate the research to your own interests and previous coursework;
- consider the implications of the research for the study of religion;

Each paper should be between 1400 and 1500 words. Papers must be uploaded to Avenue **the Monday following the meeting with the faculty person**. See Avenue for due dates. You may write more than five papers and drop your lowest marks. **No late papers will be accepted.**

Participation and attendance 20%

Attendance = 10%

To miss a seminar without penalty you will need to submit a MSAF. Note you can miss one course meeting without penalty and without a MSAF.

Verbal participation 10%

This course will be conducted as a seminar. You must come prepared to participate.

Presentations 20%

- **Students will give presentations on a selection of one faculty person's published works. Details to be posted on Avenue and discussed in seminar.**

Schedule

1. Sept 9 Introductions and overview of the seminar and our goals.

1. Sept 16 Religious Studies: What is it?

Readings TBA on Avenue

2. Sept 23 McMaster's Department of Religious Studies

Readings TBA on Avenue

4. Sept 30 Professor Mark Rowe

Readings available on Avenue.

5. Oct 7 Professor Dan Machiela

Readings available on Avenue.

6. Oct 14 Reading Week

7. Oct 21 Professor Dana Hollander

Readings available on Avenue.

8. Oct 28 Professor Hanna Tervanotko

Readings available on Avenue.

9. Nov 4 Professor James Benn

Readings available on Avenue.

10. Nov 11 Professor Liyakat Takim

Readings available on Avenue.

11. Nov 18 Professor Travis Kroeker

Readings available on Avenue.

12. Nov 25 Professor Celia Rothenberg

Readings available on Avenue.

13. Dec 2 Presentations

14. Dec 9 Presentations

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All written assignments are to be uploaded to our course website on Avenue to Learn

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

No late papers will be accepted.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior 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 behavior 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 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 credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.