

	School of Arts & Science HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT REL 100 World Religions of the West Spring 2017
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COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Kamran Bashir		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tuesdays: 12:15 – 13:15, or by appointment		
(c)	Location:	Young 323		
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3347	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	bashirk@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

An introductory survey of Judaism, Christianity, & Islam, this course explores the sources, beliefs (including representative texts), & practices of these religions. These traditions will be studied in their cultural & political contexts from both historical & contemporary perspectives.

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the contexts/historical settings in which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam arose.
2. List major dates, events, and places central to each.
3. Describe the historical linkage/relationships among them.
4. Summarize their major beliefs, teachings, ideals, and practices.
5. Explain variations/splits/divisions in each tradition.
6. Analyze their similarities/differences.
7. Compare/contrast each religion's view of the others.
8. Evaluate their relationship to and impact on the world today.

3. Required Materials

Required Texts (available in Bookstore):

- Willard G. Oxtoby & Amir Hussain, ed., *World's Religions: Western Traditions*, 3rd edition.
- William K. Kay, *Pentecostalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford Univ. Press.

Recommended Texts:

- Bible: for the TaNaKh (Old Testament), consider the *Jewish Study Bible* (Oxford) or Christian Bibles such as *New Revised Standard Version*, *Revised Standard Version*, or *New International Version* which will also be used for Christianity.
- *Qur'an*, recommended translation: by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem (bookstore)

4. Course Content and Schedule

Lecture Content and Plan

During class time, we use the Oxtoby / Hussain text and the scriptures of each tradition. Additional readings can be assigned by email or links. Oxtoby chapters are divided into sections. For each section and subsection, ask the following when reading:

1. What is the main question of this section/subsection and how is it answered?
2. What are the main and the sub-themes of this section/subsection?

Classes largely follow the book's format but lecture materials will elaborate and add to the textbook content. Reading the textbook (and other materials including videos), and attending classes ensure the best results for learning and performance in quizzes, exams and other assignments. Following is the *tentative* plan of lectures as some topics may require longer or shorter treatment.

Week One (Jan 10)

- Course Introduction; About Religion – Religions of the Ancient World; Foundation Stories and Sources on Which Judaism, Christianity, & Islam are Based
- Optional Textbook Reading: Oxtoby / Hussain, Chapter 1

Week Two – Week Five (Jan 17 – Feb 7)

In-class Quiz 1 on Jan 31

- Topic: Judaism
- Required Textbook Reading: Oxtoby / Hussain, Chapter 3

Week Six – Week Nine (Feb 14 – Mar 7)

Mid-term: February 28
Reading Week: Feb 13-17

- Topic: Christianity
- Required Textbook Reading: Oxtoby / Hussain, Chapter 4

Week Ten – Week Thirteen (Mar 14 – Apr 4)

In-class Quiz 2 on Mar 14
In-class Quiz 3 on Apr 04
Report/Review Due on Mar 28

- Topic: Islam
- Required Textbook Reading: Oxtoby / Hussain, Chapter 5

Week Fourteen (April 11)

- Topic: Compare, Contrast, Summary
- Required Textbook Reading: Oxtoby / Hussain, Chapter 8

Seminar Readings – Content and Plan

The purpose of the seminars is to think about the assigned readings and engage in discussion with your fellow students to enhance understanding and learning. Each of you will be assigned a specific group for class discussion. Before a seminar class, you will hand in short, concise responses (either print or hand-written) to the questions on the DISCUSSION readings. Seminar grades will be based on student participation (in group and class discussion) and also on the quality of written assignment. Broad feedback on your written assignments will be provided periodically. More than three absences will forfeit the Seminar Participation grade which is 20%.

In the following paragraph, there are some guiding questions that you will be required to answer for each reading. These questions can help you think and write about the reading. You can also add to these questions (and your answers) based on the nature of a particular reading. Your writing must demonstrate your active reading of the text.

Guiding Questions for the seminar readings:

1. What are the key names, places, events and concepts mentioned in the reading? Briefly define them and write down their significance (religious, historical, etc.). Google or consult a dictionary for unfamiliar words.
2. What is the nature of this religious text – is it theological, legal, social, historical? What are factors that make it a particular type of text. (Note: Please answer this question by reading brief introduction to this text from an external source).
3. Can you identify the underlying reasoning for the actions or injunctions made by God or by a person (prophet, religious leader, etc.)?
4. What general impression the text leaves on you a reader?

Note: In addition to the above, more questions, specific to the text, can be provided before a seminar.

Seminar Schedule

Following is the tentative list of readings required for each week. *If required, some changes can be made for better learning.*

- Week One (Jan 12)
 - Introduction to the Old Testament (pdf will be uploaded onto D2L)
- Week Two (Jan 19): Theme: Creation and Flood
 - Genesis: Chapters 1-11.
- Week Three (Jan 26): Theme: Making of a Religious Nation
 - Exodus: Chapters 19-27
- Week Four (Feb 2): Theme: Law; prophetic sayings
 - Leviticus (Chapters 1-4; 11; 19)
 - Isaiah (Chapters 53-59)
- Week Five (Feb 9): Theme: Wisdom; Theodicy
 - Psalms (1-13)
 - Job (Chapters 1-6; 38-42; Epilogue)
- **Week Six (Feb 16): NO CLASS - READING WEEK**

- Week Seven (Feb 23): Theme: Life of Jesus & his Sayings
 - Gospel of Mathew (Chapters 1-13)
- Week Eight (Mar 2): Life of Jesus & his Sayings
 - Gospel of Mathew (Chapters 14-28)
- Week Nine (Mar 9): Pauline Teachings
 - Romans (Chapters 1-8)
- Week Ten (Mar 16): Theme: Pauline Teachings
 - Romans (Chapters 9-16)
- Week Eleven (Mar 23): Theme: Prayer; Foundations of a new Nation
 - Qur'an: Chapter 1 & Chapter 2: 1-141
- Week Twelve (Mar 30): Theme: Society
 - Qur'an: Chapter 4: 1-7
- Week Thirteen (Apr 6): Theme: War; God's Providence
 - Qur'an: Chapter 9: 1-60
 - Qur'an: Chapter 55
- Week Fourteen (Apr 13): Theme: Miscellaneous; Eschatology
 - Qur'an: Chapters 104-114

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

• Quizzes (Jan 31; Mar 14; Apr 4)	10% each	30%
• Mid-term Exam (Feb 28)		20%
• Book Review (due Mar 28)		10%
• Seminar Participation	10% (Written) 10% (Participation)	20%
• Final Exam (between Apr 18-26)		20%
• Total		100%

Explanation of Student Assessment

1. Lecture Attendance: Your overall performance in the course depends on your participation, particularly attending the lectures and seminars.
2. Quizzes: These in-class tests will check your progress periodically and will assess your learning and understanding of key events, concepts and phenomena pertaining to each religious tradition.
3. Mid-term Exam: This 2-hour in-class exam will comprise of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. The test will be based on whatever course material (including seminar readings) is covered before the exam date.
4. Book Review: You will be required to write a review/report of William Kay's *Pentecostalism: A Very Short Introduction*. We will discuss the rubrics of this assignments in the class. Due date for the submission of printed copy is March 28 in class. In the interest of fairness to all students, late submission will result in 5% deduction per day.
5. Seminar Participation: The grade will be based on your attendance, quality of participation and written assignments. Missing more than 3 seminars will forfeit your seminar participation grade which is 20%. The grade for seminar participation will be announced after the final exam.

6. Final Exam: This 2-hour exam will comprise of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. The test is a cumulative one and thus will cover whatever has been taught in the course, that is, lectures, seminars, textbook and any additional material. The date of the final exam will be announced by the college. Final Exam date will be between April 18-26. Please adjust your personal schedules accordingly the final exam date is beyond the control of an instructor.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete</i> : A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress</i> : A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (<i>For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.</i>)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal</i> : A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning.
This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**.
It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy.
The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.