

Religious Studies 2204F (570)
Time: Tuesday, Thursday 5:30-7:00 PM
Room: SA 060
Instructor: Prof. Gyongyi (Ginger) Hegedus
Office hours: Monday 11:00-1:00 PM
Wednesday 11:00-1:00PM
Office: FB112
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E-mail: ghegedus@uwo.ca

Western Religions: Judaism and Islam

Course Objectives

This course provides a systematic introduction to the history, faith and tradition of Islam and Judaism. We will concentrate on the following topics: 1. What is the essence of Jewish and Islamic faith? 2. What is Islamic and Jewish theology? 3. What are the main stages of Jewish and Islamic thought and history? 4. Jewish and Islamic political models? 5. Islamic (*Sufism*) and Jewish mysticism (*Kabbalah*)

Week 1

The notion of “Faith”

The Abrahamic/monotheistic/Western religions

Week 2

What happened before? – Shamanistic, animistic cults

What happened before? – Religions of the Ancient Middle East

Week 3

The main stages of Jewish history

The Biblical Period

Week 4

Jewish Scriptures, The structure of the Hebrew Bible

The Rabbinic Period: *Mishna* and *Talmud*

Week 5

Medieval Judaism: Philosophy

Medieval Judaism: Kabbalah

Week 6

Modernism, streams in Judaism

Zionism and the birth of the Modern State of Israel

Week 7

Religion and Contemporary Politics (guest lecturer)

Midterm quiz

Week 8

Reading Week

Week 9

The name and concept of Islam

The main stages of Islamic history

Week 10

The Qur'an and the *Sunna*

Islamic sectarian movements (the *Shi'a*)

Week 11

The five pillars of Islam

Islamic mysticism (*Sufism*)

Week 12

The map of the Islamic world

Islam and Modernism

Week 13

Islam in Diaspora (Western Europe and North America)

Women and politics in Islam

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES:

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Prerequisites for this course: None

Antirequisites for this course: None

Evaluation Scheme: short essay 8-12 pages, deadline: 1 week before the end of classes (30%), midterm (20%), final exam (40%), attendance (10%)

Course Materials

Oxtoby, W. G., Hussain, A. (eds.) *World Religions (Western Traditions)*, Oxford University Press, 2011

(Additional readings and/or handouts will be provided in class)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Extensions and make-up tests: Under some circumstances you may be eligible for extensions on written assignment/essay due dates or the opportunity to write make-up tests. Please note the following carefully, however: The purpose of extensions on written assignment/essay due dates and make-up tests is to compensate for a disadvantage that a particular student has had *by comparison with the rest of the class*. For example, if serious illness or the death of a close relative has made it impossible for you to apply yourself to test preparation or assignment/essay writing in a way that is comparable to the others in the class then an extension of the due date or a make-up test may be allowed. Please notice that the purpose of these is to offset the circumstances which have placed you at a disadvantage relative to the rest of the class. Therefore, no essay extension or make-up test will be allowed unless clear evidence of such unusual circumstances is provided. In the case of illness this would require a note from a physician stipulating clearly that the illness for which you have visited the physician has prevented you from performing your work. A physician's note saying simply that you visited his or her office will not suffice. Students will be required to provide medical documentation *to the Academic Dean's Office* before being granted an essay extension or being allowed to write a make-up test. See Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, at:

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

Please notice as well that extensions and make-up tests are not intended to compensate for bad time management. If unexpected events interrupt studying or essay writing that has been delayed by you until the very last minute, your circumstances will be considered in large part if not entirely a function of poor time management.

Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism: Students must write their own essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Please refer to *Scholastic Discipline* under the Senate *Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities* at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/3>

Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Electronic devices: No electronic devices will be allowed during the writing of examinations.

Laptop Policy: King's University College at The University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning. The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matter related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the **Student Code of Conduct**.

(see http://www.kings.uwo.ca/files/file/about/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf)

Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays: Please refer to the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/> (See Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities). The Calendar of Religious Accommodation for the 2010-11 academic year is available on the Equity & Human Rights Services' website:

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?lang=en&s=demo1&year=2010>

This calendar shows religious holidays for which Equity and Human Rights Services has confirmed students of different faiths may require academic accommodation.

Important Dates:

Last day to drop the course: March 7, 2015

Examination Period: April 11-30, 2015

Support Services:

The web site for Registrarial Service at King's University College, and Counselling and Student Development Services is: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/dos>



Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholasticdiscipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Unless otherwise noted by your Professor, the following policies are in effect:

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom

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The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See http://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf. Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords."

Submission of Late Essays/Assignments - *Only late essays/assignments may be placed in the green mailbox.*

All essays and assignments must be submitted directly to your professor, or designated assistant. Arrangements for submission must be made with the professor for any assignments handed-in outside the scheduled due date/time that are not considered late.

Essays in the late essay/assignment box will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. The drop-box located on the main floor of The (south) Annex

Please ensure your professor's name is on the essay/assignment.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Tests/Examinations

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Faculty Office Hours: Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Academics and are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Faculty Secretaries' Office on the 2nd floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development Services at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>;

for emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/program-and-course-planning/academic-advising/>

updated July 2014