

**SCAR 4AE3—ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIETY, CULTURE & RELIGION
FALL/WINTER 20/21**

Instructor: Philippa Carter
Email: carterph@mcmaster.ca

Lecture: N/A
Office Hours: [By appointment](#)

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Course Description

This course runs over the Fall and Winter terms in the students graduating year. Three units at Level IV are awarded upon successful completion of the course. Students enrolled in a departmental B.A. Combined Hons. B.A., or Hons. B.A. program complete a variety of tasks that enhance their appreciation of the academic study of religion. The course is administered through Avenue by students' departmental faculty mentors.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Engage critically with academic presentations involving and invoking “religion;”
- Reflect on, revise and adapt their own approaches to the study of religion;
- Cultivate an on-going engagement with all things religious in society and culture.

Required Materials and Texts

- TBA

Class Format

In term one this course will be held exclusively online. Students will work independently but regular Zoom meetings will occur at mutually convenient times.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Book Review
2. Revision Assignment
3. Attendance at, and group discussion of, two academic presentations each term
4. Observation and reflection assignment
5. Participation and Engagement

Course Evaluation – Details

Book Review (20%)

A careful and thoughtful evaluation of a “classic” in the academic study of religion.

Revision Assignment (20%)

Each student will take a written assignment submitted to a course in Levels I or II and revise it based on their current understanding of the academic study of religion.

Attendance and Discussion (20%)

Each term we will attend two academic presentations (virtual or live) and discuss each as a group together.

Observation and Reflection Assignment (20%)

Each student will take one hour to be present at any public location in order to observe and reflect on the presence (or absence) of religious symbols, behaviours, images, etc.

Participation and Engagement (20%)

At our regular meetings we will engage with each other's work underway at that point in the course. Students are responsible for collegial and helpful feedback on work in progress.

Course Schedule

Meetings will be arranged at regular and mutually convenient times throughout the academic year.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

[Insert policy on format of assignments and how to be submitted. Keep in mind our department policy that staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.]

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

There are no deadlines for assignments in this course other than being prepared for, and ready to engage at, each meeting. Each written assignment should be completed in a timely manner.

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.