

## RELIGST 2HR3 HUMOUR AND RELIGION (DR. PHILIPPA CARTER, SUMMER 2020)

CONTACT INFORMATION .....	1
CALENDAR DESCRIPTION.....	1
COURSE GOALS.....	1
LEARNING OBJECTIVES .....	1
REQUIRED MATERIALS.....	1
COURSE REQUIREMENTS .....	2
COURSE CALENDAR.....	2
THE FINE PRINT .....	2
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY .....	2
AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION .....	3
ON-LINE COMPONENTS.....	3
KRITIK.IO .....	3
EMAIL AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES.....	3
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES .....	4
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO).....	4
ABSENCES, MISSED WORK, ILLNESS AND REQUESTS FOR RELIEF McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF).....	4
SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING QUERIES .....	4
EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.....	4

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [carterph@mcmaster.ca](mailto:carterph@mcmaster.ca)

Hours: By appointment <http://calendly.com/philippacarter> (Phone, Skype, Zoom)

### 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 phenomena involving humour and religion

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Stable internet connection.
- Student account with Kritik (see below)
- Noel Carroll, *Humour: A Very Short Introduction*.
- John Morreall, *Comedy, Tragedy, Religion* (BL85 .M72 1999 EBook available in Mills).
- *A Serious Man* (dir. Ethan Cohen, Joel Cohen, 2009) available to stream through McMaster's Criterion collection.
- *Café Society* (dir. Woody Allen, 2016) available to stream through McMaster's Criterion collection.
- *The Last Laugh* (dir. Ferne Pearlstein, 2017) available to stream through McMaster's Kanopy collection.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. 10% Four Avenue quizzes @ 2.5%
2. 30% Participation & Engagement (Kritik subscription)
3. 30% One midterm essay/test
4. 30% One final essay/test

## COURSE CALENDAR

DATE (Week of)	CONTENT
June 22	Introductions. Brief lecture on the history of theoretical accounts of humour. Why Humour & Religion?
June 29	The five theories and examples. Quiz 1
July 6	<i>A Serious Man</i> Midterm essay/test due 15 July
July 13	<i>Café Society</i> Quiz 2
July 20	<i>The Last Laugh</i> Quiz 3
July 27	Comedy, Tragedy, Religion Quiz 4
August 3	Final essay/test due 12 August

## THE FINE PRINT

### 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 [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

### *AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION*

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### *ON-LINE COMPONENTS*

In this course we will be using Avenue2Learn, Kritik, and turnitin.com. 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.

### *KRITIK.IO*

In this course, we will be using Kritik.io, a peer-to-peer learning platform. It is an engaging and gamified web technology that helps you develop your higher-order-thinking skills according to [Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive thinking](#). It includes Creation and Evaluation skills.

When you participate in Kritik activities, you will receive 3 scores: "Creation" score, "Evaluation" score and "Participation" score. Together, these will add up to 30% of your final course mark. To understand what these scores are and how they are calculated, please read the section "how scoring works" on Kritik's help center [here](#).

An email invitation will be sent to your school email account that contains the link to register an account on Kritik online and enrol in the course. **You MUST use your university email to sign up in order to access the course.** If you did not receive any email yet, please contact Kritik using the live chat on kritik.io.

**How to get help:** If you have any questions about Kritik, please use **the live chat** in the app. A human agent will respond promptly in a few minutes during business hours. You can also visit Kritik Help Center at <https://www.kritik.io/student-user-guidance-page>, which outlines an overview to get you up and running on the system.

### *EMAIL AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES*

I try to respond to email messages within 24 hours on weekdays. If you email me on the weekend, expect a reply by Monday afternoon. If you do not receive an answer to your email within 24 hours on weekdays, please do not hesitate to email again. NOTE: I do not discuss grades, including requests for grade reviews, by email. Please make an appointment: <https://calendly.com/philippacarter> !

### *ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES*

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by e-mail <sas@mcmaster.ca>. For further information, consult McMaster University's *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* policy.

### *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 requiring a RISO accommodation 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.

### *ABSENCES, MISSED WORK, ILLNESS AND REQUESTS FOR RELIEF 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". ***If you find it necessary to submit the MSAF during this course, you must submit the missed work before the end of classes. I do not redistribute grades for missed assignments. ADDITIONALLY, it is not necessary to contact me to report your submission of the MSAF; simply submit your work as soon as possible.***

### *SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING QUERIES*

All assignments should be submitted to Avenue as .doc(x) or .pdf. Please ***do not*** include a cover page. Assignments submitted in other formats will not be graded. Please do not submit assignments by email attachment unless specifically instructed to do so. If you have a query about a grade for an assignment, please make an appointment at <http://calendly.com/philippacarter> and be prepared to explain, in some detail, why you believe your grade is incorrect. Your assignment will be reviewed before final marks are submitted to the Registrar's office. Your grade may be increased, may stay the same, or in very unusual circumstances, be decreased.

### *EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES*

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