**Religious Studies 4SR3**

**Religion, Society, and Culture**

**Thursdays, 11:30-2:30, Fall 2019**

**UH 101**

Professor Celia Rothenberg

Office: UH124

Office hours: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30

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**Calendar 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.

**Course texts**

Course readings will be available on Avenue.

**Course requirements and percentage of final grade**

**50% Five response papers that address guest faculty discussions and readings**

Response papers should:

* locate the readings within the field of religious studies broadly and the McMaster’s Department of Religious Studies specifically;
* provide an overview 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 1250 and 1500 words. Papers must be uploaded to Avenue. See Avenue for due dates. You may write more than five papers and drop your lowest marks.

**50% Weekly written and verbal participation and attendance**

* Attendance for 10 weeks = 10%
* Questions for guest faculty = 16% (2% per questions for faculty member)
  + **Three thoughtful questions for guest faculty must be prepared in advance; students will hand in a hard copy of their questions *to me* *at the beginning of the seminar at which that faculty member appears*. Please make a copy for yourself to which you can refer during the seminar. No late questions will be accepted.**
* Verbal participation = 24%

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

**Schedule**

**Sept 5 Introductions and overview of the seminar; discussion of goals.**

1. **Sept 12 Religious Studies: How did we get here?**

Readings available on Avenue.

1. **Sept 19 (1) Professor Ellen Badone**

Readings available on Avenue.

1. **Sept 26 Religious Studies: Where are we going?**

Readings available on Avenue.

**4. Oct 3 (2) Professor Celia Rothenberg**

Readings available on Avenue.

1. **Oct 10 (3) Professor Ellen Amster**

Readings available on Avenue.

**6. Oct 17 Reading Week**

1. **Oct 24 (4) Professor Dan Machiela**

Readings available on Avenue.

**8. Oct 31(5) Professor Mark Rowe**

Readings available on Avenue.

**9. Nov 7 (6) Professor Dana Hollander**

Readings available on Avenue.

**10. Nov 14 (7) Professor Liyakat Takim**Readings available on Avenue.

**11. Nov 21(8) Jeremy Cohen, PhD student**

Readings available on Avenue.

**Nov 28 – No Class - Alternative response paper due (details to be discussed in class) on any event hosted by the Religious Studies Department during term. This event may not also be used for RELIGST 4AE3.**

# Course Policies

## Submission of Assignments

[Insert policy on format of assignments and how to be submitted]

## 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

[Insert policy on late assignments]

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

[Insert policy on absences, missed work and illness]

## 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](http://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](http://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.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)

**Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/riso) about how to request accommodation.

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**Privacy Protection**

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.