**SCAR 4SC3**

**Religion, Society, and Culture**

**Wednesdays 11:30**–**2:20**

**September 7**–**December 8, 2021**

Professor Hanna Tervanotko

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar introduces the participants to the areas of study of Religious Studies. By getting to know and engaging with faculty members in McMaster’s Department of Religious Studies, the participants will 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;
* the ability to reflect their own learning processes.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS**

Course readings will be available on Avenue.

**COURSE EVALUATION – OVERVIEW**

60% Response papers (five papers, 12% each)

20% Participation and attendance (including attendance, 10%, and verbal participation, 10%)

20% Final paper

**COURSE EVALUATION - DETAILS**

**Response papers 60%**

* **Five response papers, 12% each.**

Response papers should:

* locate the readings within the field of religious studies broadly and McMaster’s Department of Religious Studies specifically;
* provide a summary 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 four to five pages typed and double spaced. Papers must be uploaded to Avenue **the Monday following the meeting with the faculty person**. See Avenue for due dates. You may write more than five papers and drop your lowest marks. **No late papers will be accepted.**

**Participation and attendance 20%**

**Attendance = 10%**

To miss a seminar without penalty you will need to submit a MSAF. Note you can miss one course meeting without penalty and without a MSAF.

**Verbal participation 10%**

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

**Final Paper 20%**

Critical reflection of the learning process.

**Schedule**

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| Date | Theme | Readings/Assignments |
| September 8 | Introduction, Requirements, What is a critical reflection |  |
| September 15 | What is Academic Religious Studies? |  |
| September 22 | Biblical Studies – Hanna Tervanotko | Gender and Pseudepigrapha |
| September 29 | Biblical Studies – Matthew Thiessen | Legislation of Leviticus 12 |
| October 6 | Anthropology and Religion – Ellen Badone | Reflections on Death, Religion, Identity, and the Anthropology of Religion |
| October 13 | Reading Week |  |
| October 20 | Philosophy of Religion – Dana Hollander  |  |
| October 27 | Japanese Religions – Mark Rowe |  |
| November 3 | Study of Islam – Liyakat Takim |  |
| November 10 | Theology and Ethics – Travis Kroeker |  |
| November 17 | Jewish Studies – Celia Rothenberg | Jewish Commentaries on Star Wars |
| November 24 | Religion and Politics – Meirav Jones |  |
| December 1 | Academic Religious Studies as a discipline |  |
| December 8 | Final questions |  |