

Hist2260DE

Religion & Society in the Modern World F15

Dr. Edward Smith, Ph.D.

This course surveys the major trends in religious beliefs and practices and their social impact since the Reformation. The focus of the course is on the British Isles and North America with some discussion of developments in Continental Europe.

We will tie together the specific historical evidence presented in the coursework through the lens of the following over-arching themes:

Structure of the Course

The course is presented in weekly units. Each unit will either look at a specific geographical or cultural (or ethnic) region, or a specific theme or summation of work to a particular point. The course begins with background information, then looks first at England as the English had the most profound influence on religion in the British Isles and North America, except for Mexico (though even here, the influence of the United States, initially founded by the English is important). Each unit proceeds in an historical narrative format, looking at events as they unfold. Some of you will have studied the histories of these various places, but not from this focus.

In the end, my hope is that all of us (including myself) will gain a fuller understanding of the role of religion in society.

Course Objectives

This course operates on two levels:

- understanding the nature of religious belief and
- considering how it is integrated into western societies and into the societies which have become dominated by the West.

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- recall certain basic facts of religious doctrine and historical development in a manner which allows you to define themes and basic concepts which cut across boundaries
- consider the facts you have memorized in supporting your remarks in frequent discussion within a comparative context
- discuss concepts and events with your peers
- respond to 'loaded' questions posed by me
- articulate your ideas in essays based on and evaluated through the form invented by Montesquieu (hypotheses supported by specific evidence from history and thematically oriented)
- develop competence in combining and developing an understanding of basic themes through a knowledge of historical development
- evaluate the usefulness of these themes in understanding the nature of the complex relationship between religion and society

You will thus be able to contextualize and conceptualise the phenomenon of religion and perhaps contribute other themes to this ongoing discussion.

Course Materials

Textbook

HIST*2260 DE does not have a text book, but an online text book. This consists of the weekly readings, links in the weekly readings and the articles and web sites listed on the Resources page. There are some print books listed - these are not necessary, but additional reading for those interested in particular topics. Only the material available online is required reading.

Films

Linked from the website at various times

Articles and other study resources

Linked from the website at various times plus the “Holy, Holy, Holy” article, which is used in your first discussion, is available through the University’s eReserve system. You will find a link to it within your course eReserve page.

Online Learner Expectations

Time Required

Though of course people vary according to how long they need or want to study, in general you should plan to spend 8-10 hours per week on this course.

Academic Misconduct

Students have the responsibility of abiding by the university's policy on student academic misconduct. Misconduct is broadly understood to mean offences against the academic integrity of the learning environment. This would include, but is not limited to: academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism); misrepresentation of personal performance (e.g. submitting the work of someone else, impersonation).

NOTE: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

NETIQUETTE

The discussion forums in *History 2260DE Religion & Society in the Modern World* provide an online venue for interaction between students, teaching assistants and the course instructor in the history of religion and its relationship with society in the Atlantic world from 1500 to the present. This allows for the potential for diverse interests and perspectives. These forums are not, however, for proselytising, witnessing, or arguing for one's personal religion. Nor will *ad hominen* comments, or disparaging comments on the beliefs of others, be tolerated. The course reflects the best traditions of critical scholarship in the study of religion, and vigorous but respectful discussion is both allowed and expected.

Evaluation and Grades

The study of History is normally slotted within the Humanities or Arts, rather than Social Sciences. History requires a degree of literacy - the ability to write clearly, to express a point of view founded upon historical evidence. Essay writing is the technique which lends itself best to the discussion and expression of ideas in History. The evaluation of work in this course concentrates on this skill. To this end there is a major essay assignment, four discussions and a final exam which will have essay questions as its major component.

Listed in chronological order, here's when these items will be due and how they will be evaluated. Please check the Schedule for exact due dates.

Grade Item	Week Due	Weight
Discussion 1	Week 2	5%
Discussion 2	Week 4	10%
Essay Proposal	Week 6	10%
Discussion 3	Week 9	10%
Essay	Week 10	30%
Discussion 4	Week 12	10%
Final Exam	Take-home	25%

Assignments Submission

Written Assignments

All assignments should be prepared in Word, Pages or WordPerfect. **Please do not use .rtf or other Ms-Works formats.** If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

You will then use the Dropbox on this website to submit your essay proposal and the essay itself. Note: When submitting your assignments using the Dropbox, be sure to not leave the page until your assignment has successfully uploaded. To verify that your submission was complete, you can view the Dropbox submission history immediately after the upload to see which files uploaded successfully. The system will also email you a receipt. Save this email receipt in case of dispute.

Please note that Assignment details can be found within the "Assignments" portion of this course website.

Discussions

The discussions will take place through specific forum available through the Discussions button on this website.

Final Exam

The final will be a take-home.

Reminders from the History Department

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a

teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 6 November 2015**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

Technical Expectations & Requirements

You are expected to have an understanding of Internet and e-mail basics. You will be navigating and searching the Internet and corresponding with others in your class using web-based conferencing and e-mail.

Please ensure that your computer system meets the [minimum requirements](#).

If you do not have these technical requirements, consider either upgrading your personal computer, or using a machine on campus. Trying to use someone else's computer for the course may prove to be frustrating and difficult.

Please follow this quick [System Check](#) to determine if you have the right setup. Results will be displayed in a new browser window.

Problems, Questions, Comments

Course Instructor

Ted Smith

tsmith05@uoguelph.ca

Course TA's

TBA

Technical Support

Open Learning and Educational Support

University of Guelph

Day Hall, Room 211

(519) 824-4120 ext. 56939

Toll Free (Can & US) 1-866-275-1478

help@OpenEd.uoguelph.ca

Distance Education

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Johnston Hall, Room 160

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(519) 824-1112 (fax)

info@OpenEd.uoguelph.ca