

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Religion, Theology, and Global Issues

Course Number and Section

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1010F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Brett Potter

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Introduction of religious studies and theology from a global perspective. Topics include theological and religious perspectives on: culture(s), politics, economics, sexuality, violence, identity and community, and spirituality.

In particular, our study will focus on understanding some of the most prominent contemporary social issues related to religion around the world today. To take just a few examples, we will:

- study the connections between conservative politics and religious nationalism in countries like the United States, India, and Brazil;
- consider the body as a contested site of political and religious meaning in both religious and “secular” societies;
- investigate the intertwining of religion and institutional violence in relation to contemporary Indigenous issues in Canada, anti-Black racism, and the global refugee crisis;
- as well as examine the responses of religious traditions to the climate crisis, COVID-19, and new technologies.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will become familiar with the academic study of religion and its relationship to other disciplines such as history, politics, and cultural studies;
2. Students will develop and articulate an understanding of how religion continues to shape contemporary societies around the world;
3. Students will grow in their ability to creatively and concisely present research to diverse audiences;
4. Students will engage in appropriate research on a topic relevant to the course material and their own interests and growing expertise.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. All readings will be made available on our course OWL website, either as PDFs or links to online resources in the Huron library.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %

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Weekly Engagement	12/02/2023	15
Short Essay 1: Borders	10/14/2023	25
Creative Project	11/11/2023	30
Short Essay 2: Bodies	12/08/2023	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.