

RELS401 Honours Seminar

Winter 2015
Thursdays 11:30-2:30
BIOSCI 2109

Instructors

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Office hours by arrangement

Objectives

The main goal of this seminar is to provide honours students with the opportunity of participating together in an advanced reading seminar and at the same time working independently on a research project. Through participation in a collective reading seminar, students will also develop skills in oral presentation, intellectual debate, listening to others, and thinking on one's feet. Students will also gain experience in all stages of the research process, including defining a topic, conducting bibliographic research, evaluating sources, formulating an argument, writing up and presenting research results. In addition to these process-oriented goals, the seminar also aims to develop students' critical understanding of religion cross-culturally and at an advanced theoretical level. The topic for Winter 2015 is "Spiritual But Not Religious."

Requirements

1. Seminar Paper (20%) as arranged on the first day of classes. The seminar paper should comprise a 500 word objective summary of one of the required readings, and three to five discussion questions. Print copies of the paper / handout for all the members of the seminar. You are responsible for leading the seminar for 50 minutes. You should first present your objective summary and then engage the seminar in discussing your questions. Be creative in your approach to generating a good discussion. Maybe you can show a video or create an activity that engages everyone's attention. The grade will be based equally on the quality of your objective summary and on your ability to generate a substantive discussion about the readings that engages all the members of the seminar.
2. Essay Proposal (10%) submitted via Moodle by February 26, 2015 at 7am.
3. Final Essay, max. 5,000 words, (50%) submitted via Moodle by April 16, 2015 at 7am.
4. Participation (20%) based on your attendance and participation in class discussions.

Schedule

The complete schedule of readings can be found on Moodle with hyperlinks to online articles and books. Key texts have been ordered in the campus bookstore and placed on 3 hour reserve

in Stauffer. In case of any discrepancy between the printed syllabus and the readings listed on Moodle, follow the readings on Moodle.

January 8: Introductions

Required

Brean, Joseph. "One in Four Canadians Declare Affiliation to No Religion, but Why Are so Many 'nones' Surprisingly Religious?" *National Post News. Holy Post*, 26 May 2014. Web. 27 July 2014.

Carlson, Kathryn. 'Organized Religion On The Decline? Growing Number Of Canadians 'Spiritual But Not Religious''. *National Post*. N.p., 2014. Web. 22 Oct. 2014.

January 15: Spiritual But Not Religious? A Proposed Dichotomy

Required

Heelas, Paul, and Linda Woodhead. *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion Is Giving Way to Spirituality*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2005. Print.

- Introduction (pp. 1-11)
- Chapter One: Distinguishing Religion and Spirituality: Findings from Kendal (pp.12-32)

Oppenheimer, Mark. "Examining the Growth of the 'Spiritual but Not Religious'." *The New York Times. The New York Times*, 18 July 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.

Blake, John. "Are There Dangers in Being 'spiritual but Not Religious'?" *CNN Living*. CNN, 9 June 2010. Web. 03 June 2014.

Recommended

Jacobs, Anne C. "Spirituality: History and Contemporary Developments – An Evaluation." *Koers Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* 78.1 (2013): n.p. Web.

Mercadante, Linda. "The Seeker Next Door: What Drives the Spiritual But Not Religious?" *The Christian Century* 129.11 (2012): 30. Web.

January 22: Sacralization and Secularization

Required

Heelas, Paul, and Linda Woodhead. *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion Is Giving Way to Spirituality*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2005. Print.

- Chapter 3: Evidence for a Spiritual Revolution: Britain and USA (pp. 49-76)
- Chapter 4: Bringing the Sacred to Life (pp. 77-129)

Recommended

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth. "The Sympathy of Religions." www.gutenberg.org. Project Gutenberg, 14 June 2008. Web. 15 June 2014.

January 29: The Privatization & Corporatization of Religion - Criticisms of Contemporary Spirituality

Required

Carrette, Jeremy R., and Richard King. *Selling Spirituality: The Silent Takeover of Religion*. London: Routledge, 2005. Print.

- Introduction: The Rebranding of Religion (pp. 1-29)
- Chapter 2: Western Psychology and the Politics of Spirituality (pp. 54-86)

February 5 A Defence of Contemporary Spirituality (1)

Required

Heelas, Paul. *Spiritualities of Life: New Age Romanticism and Consumptive Capitalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. Print.

- Introduction (pp. 1-22)
- Chapter 3: The Debate (pp. 81-96)
- Chapter 5: The Sacred and the Profane: Spiritual Direction or the Consumer Preference (pp. 113-136)

February 12: The Co-opting of Asian Wisdom Traditions

Required

Carrette, Jeremy R., and Richard King. *Selling Spirituality: The Silent Takeover of Religion*. London: Routledge, 2005. Print.

- Chapter 3: The Privatization of Asian Wisdom Traditions (pp. 87 - 122)

Iwamura, Jane Naomi. "Introduction." In *Virtual Orientalism: Asian Religions and American Popular Culture*, by Iwamura, Jane.. Oxford University Press, 2011. Oxford Scholarship Online, 2011. doi: [10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199738601.003.0001](https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199738601.003.0001).

Iwamura, Jane Naomi. "The Monk Goes Hollywood: Kung Fu." In *Virtual Orientalism: Asian Religions and American Popular Culture*, by Iwamura, Jane.. Oxford University Press, 2011. Oxford Scholarship Online, 2011. doi: [10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199738601.003.0004](https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199738601.003.0004).

Recommended

Palmer, David A.: "Globalizing Daoism at Huashan: Quanzhen Monks, Danwei Politics, and International Dream Trippers." In Goossaert, V and Liu, X (Eds.), *Quanzhen Daoism in Historical and Social Perspective*. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, 2014. Online: Hong Kong University. <http://hdl.handle.net/10722/194535>

February 26: A Defence of Contemporary Spirituality (2)

Required

Heelas, Paul. *Spiritualities of Life: New Age Romanticism and Consumptive Capitalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. Print.

- Chapter 6: The Matter of Personal Significance: Profaned Superficiality? (pp. 137-150)

Gottlieb, Roger S. *Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Oxford UP, 2013. Print.

- Chapter 3: Spirituality in Religious Tradition (pp. 53-69)
- Chapter 5: Spiritual but Not Religious? (pp. 80-92)

Recommended

- Chapter 4: Toward the Present: How Spirituality Became Modern (pp. 70-79)

March 5: Marxist Criticisms of Spirituality

Required

Martin, Craig. *Capitalizing Religion Ideology and the Opiate of the Bourgeoisie*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. Print.

- Chapter 2: Theorizing "Individual" Religion (pp. 33-51)
- Chapter 3: Our "religion" of the Status Quo (pp. 53-85)

March 12: Criticisms of Contemporary Spirituality

Required

Martin, Craig. *Capitalizing Religion Ideology and the Opiate of the Bourgeoisie*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. Print.

- Chapter 4: Opiate of the bourgeoisie (pp. 85 – 89)
- Chapter 6: Productivity: The new protestant work ethic (pp. 125-139)
- Chapter 7: Individualism: A capital theodicy (pp. 141-156)

March 19: A Defence of Contemporary Spirituality (3)

Required

Heelas, Paul. *Spiritualities of Life: New Age Romanticism and Consumptive Capitalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. Print.

- Chapter 8: A 'Fag Ending' of the Sacred or Fit for the Future? (pp. 167-194)
- Chapter 9: Inside Out (pp. 195-221)

Gottlieb, Roger S. *Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Oxford UP, 2013. Print.

- Chapter 8: Spirituality and Healing (pp. 125-146)

March 26: Nature Spiritualities

Required

Gottlieb, Roger S. *Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Oxford UP, 2013. Print.

- Chapter 9: Spirituality and Nature

James Miller. "Envisioning the Daoist Body in the Economy of Cosmic Power." *Daedalus* 130.4, Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change? (Fall 2001), 265-282

David H.K. Brown, George Jennings, Andrew C. Sparkes, "Taijiquan the 'Taiji World' Way: Towards a Cosmopolitan Vision of Ecology" *Societies* 2014 4.3: 380-398. Online.

April 2: Future Aspirations, Concerns and Predictions

Required

Heelas, Paul. *Spiritualities of Life: New Age Romanticism and Consumptive Capitalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. Print.

- Epilogue: Birthright Spirituality Beyond the West (pp. 222-232)

Martin, Craig. *Capitalizing Religion Ideology and the Opiate of the Bourgeoisie*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. Print.

- Afterword: Things at the disposal of society (pp. 157-160)

Gottlieb, Roger S. *Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Oxford UP, 2013. Print.

- Chapter 10: Spirituality and Politics

Caplan, Mariana. "The Fate and Failings of Contemporary Spirituality." *ReVision* 24.2 (2001): 51-56. Web. 16 June 2014.

Recommended

Ammerman, Nancy T. "Spiritual But Not Religious? Beyond Binary Choices in the Study of Religion." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52.2 (2013): 258-78. Web.

Schneiders, Sandra Marie. "Religion vs. Spirituality: A Contemporary Conundrum." *Spiritus: A Journal Of Christian Spirituality* 3.2 (2003): 163-85. Project Muse. Web. 05 Apr. 2014.

Miles-Yepey, Netanel. "The Religion of Spirituality." *Huffington Post* 12 Aug. 2014: n. pag. Huffington Post Religion. Web.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/sites/default/files/queens_artsci_academic_regulations_2014.pdf), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an

academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright of Course Materials

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Disabilities

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>

Grades

All components of this course will receive numerical marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting the of these marks to a grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale.

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)	total letter
A+	90-100	
A	85-89	
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	
B	73-76	
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	
C	63-66	
C-	60-62	
D+	57-59	
D	53-56	
D-	50-52	
F	49 and below	