



# TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

## Course Syllabus

**INTERSESSION 2019  
WORLD RELIGIONS  
MISS 0784 / THEO 0737**

**JANUARY 7 – 11  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR JAMES A. BEVERLEY, PH.D.**

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### OFFICE HOURS

During Intercession week I can see students after class or in the evening. During the rest of January and through mid-February I am available on campus by appointment, usually Monday-Thursday. The most effective way to make an appointment is by email. If you need to reach me about something by phone, use my cell phone number.

When sending me an email please put Tyndale World Religions in subject line.

Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course begins with an introduction to different responses to world religions. We will then examine crucial guidelines in the study of other religions. After these methodological issues are addressed, attention will be directed to assessment of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Western Esotericism. [Western esotericism refers to the religious

tradition often referred to as New Age.]

Guests will be invited from various religions and we will have ex-members of groups in our class as well. We may also visit relevant religious sites.

### **Purpose of Course**

The aims of this course are four-fold:

- to introduce students to several major religions of the world in order that they can understand the main beliefs and practices of these religions
- to assess these religions in light of the central claims of Christian faith
- to help students relate their Christian faith to other religions in an informed and loving manner
- to grasp the pluralistic context of Christian mission where the world religions have come to the west and we live in a globalized world.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Employ the basics of Christianity to serve as a standard for analysis of religions
- Differentiate the options in understanding the religions of the world
- Identify the basics of the major world religions
- Interact and assess the various views in religions of the world
- Recognize the mission of the Church in relation to other religions

## **III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. REQUIRED TEXTS AND PRIMARY and SECONDARY READING**

Beverley, James A. *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009. [Either print or Kindle...Kindle has advantage of access to hyperlinks to hundreds of resources, etc.]

Beverley, James A. and Craig A. Evans. *Getting Jesus Right: How Muslims Get Jesus and Islam Wrong*. Pickering, ON: Castle Quay, 2015.

Dennis Okholm and Timothy Phillips, eds. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

At the first class and through the intersession week Professor Beverley will provide a list of primary reading from each religion dealt with in the course. These readings will be tied to Internet sites for easy access and will be readings that are central to each religion, either from the group's scriptures or other material directly from the group. As well, Professor Beverley will provide crucial secondary material about each group in terms of major analysis and/or critique from outside experts.

## **B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS**

Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

## **C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

### **SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO BEKKA PAUL ([rebekkapaul@icloud.com](mailto:rebekkapaul@icloud.com)), PROFESSOR BEVERLEY'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

#### **1. Attendance, Interview and Participation (20%)**

Attendance is expected at all classes.

All students will have an interview with Professor Beverley near the end of the course. This will provide an opportunity for the student to share his/her life story and views about Christian faith and other religions. As well, we will discuss the journal/log made during your analysis of the religions we have looked at during the intersession week.

[Please provide a one-page timeline of your life for the interview.]

#### **2. Response to two books from Professor Beverley and primary and secondary material in terms of analysis of the religious groups, leaders, beliefs and practices. (40%)**

IF you have used one or both of Professor Beverley's books in another course, substitute books will be suggested for learning.

Students are to read the assigned chapters of Professor Beverley's two books and material related to course content. As you read, **make a dated log of ongoing thoughts and reactions** to the specific groups, leaders, issues being raised in the various chapters of the two texts and all other material. The response can be informal but must be specific and tied to all readings. Lists can be used but tie comments to details in books, articles, and websites. Comments are to be **recorded/written in a binder/log** that will be shared with Professor Beverley.

Make notes as you read the material in terms of what impacts you, what interests you, what person or subject you want to do further research. **500-1000 words per religion.**

READING AND ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MATERIAL IS TO BE DONE FOR THE MOST PART AFTER THE INTERSESSON WEEK. DURING THE COURSE WEEK PROFESSOR BEVERLEY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAIL ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY READING.

THE JOURNAL/LOG ENTRIES ARE TO DEAL WITH THE 5 MAJOR RELIGIONS STUDIED DURING THE COURSE. THESE ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT SEPARATELY BY THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- JUDAISM analysis **JANUARY 25** [Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary]  
Spend 15 minutes looking at material in the [Talmud](#) (Orthodox Jews)  
Explore persons or subjects from Nelson chapter [1 hour]
- ISLAM analysis **FEBRUARY 8** [Beverley/Evans chapters + primary/secondary]  
Read chapter 1 and chapter 4 in the [Qur'an](#)  
Getting Jesus Right, Introduction + chapters 6-16, Appendix 6  
Explore persons or subjects that interest you from GJR [1 hour]
- HINDUISM analysis **FEBRUARY 22** [Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary]  
Read 15 minutes in the [Gita](#)  
Explore persons or subjects that interest you from chapter [1 hour]
- BUDDHISM analysis **MARCH 8** Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary]  
Read [4 of the most essential Buddhist texts](#)  
Explore persons or subjects that interest you from chapter [1 hour]
- WESTERN ESOTERICISM analysis **MARCH 22** [Nelson Book chapters 11, 15 and 19 + primary/secondary]  
Pick one New Age leader and read 15 minutes in his/her material  
Read 15 minutes in [The Witches' Voice](#)  
Read 15 minutes in [Quotes from the Satanic Bible](#)  
Explore persons or subjects that interest you from chapters [2 hours]

**Note on Responding to Professor Beverley's books:**

**You are NOT asked to review the books but to use the books to address the important questions/issues about the various religions of the world. Use the material in the book as a way of framing your own learning, thinking and perspective.**

Do NOT comment on whether you like or do not like the books. Simply relate and react to the material in the books.

### 3. Major Research Project (30%)

Select a major research project that is explicitly about one world religion and about a focused topic about that world religion.

Speak to Professor Beverley about the topic before you begin study. A list of possible topics will be given by Professor Beverley during the Intersession week.

Write a 2500-word essay from your research.

The research project should be based on the relevant primary material from the group in question, both in terms of the scripture of the group and its other official material. As well, attention should be given to the major experts outside of the group, in relation to books, articles, and Internet material. As well, this learning from the group's primary material and outside experts should be used to frame a proper Christian response to the group and topic explored.

DUE: **APRIL 5**

### 4. Analysis of *More Than One Way?* (10%)

AFTER the course week, and AFTER your journal/log book is finished, and after your research project is finished, give your response to the four views presented in the text. Of the four views (Hick, Pinnock, McGrath, and Geivett/Phillips), what view do you think is true, best, etc.? Deal with specifics from each view.

Length: 1500 words

DUE: **APRIL 12**

## D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

## E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance, Interview, and Participation [INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED]	20 %
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Response to content in Professor Beverley’s two books, other secondary reading, and primary reading from each religion studied  JUDAISM JANUARY 25 ISLAM FEBRUARY 8 HINDUISM FEBRUARY 22 BUDDHISM MARCH 8 WESTERN ESOTERICISM FEBRUARY 22	40 %
Major Research Project DUE APRIL 5	30 %
Response to <i>More Than One Way?</i> Text DUE APRIL 12	10 %
TOTAL	100%

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO BEKKA PAUL, PROFESSOR BEVERLEY’S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. [rebekkapaul@icloud.com](mailto:rebekkapaul@icloud.com)**

**F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

**Late Assignments**

Assignments are expected when due and a penalty will be imposed for late submissions unless exceptional circumstances arise. Inform professor about necessary extension.

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

If not proficient in writing or understanding English, students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

### **Notice on Written Assignments**

On every assignment please put your name, email, phone number(s), date assignment due, date assignment handed in, and number of hours of work on project.

### **Research Ethics**

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; [aa@tyndale.ca](mailto:aa@tyndale.ca)) before proceeding.

## **G. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

## **IV. COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
January 7	Introduction to Course + Islam
January 7 pm	Islam
January 8	Islam + Judaism
January 9	Hinduism
January 10	Buddhism
January 11 am	Western esotericism
January 11 pm	Western esotericism Conclusions

## **V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Professor Beverley's books contain abundant bibliographical and Internet resources on each religion/group.

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)