



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Winter 2013

World Religions

THEO 0737 / MISS 0784

January 16-April 17, 2013

Wednesday 6:30-9:20 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Professor James A. Beverley

jbeverley@tyndale.ca /

jamesbeverley@sympatico.ca

Cell phone: 416-876-6012

To access your course material, please go to

<http://mytyndale.ca>

Contacting Professor Beverley

Cell phone: 416-876-6012

Home email: jamesbeverley@sympatico.ca

To reach me by phone use my cell phone number. Leave a message on my cell phone.

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

I am available on campus by appointment, usually Monday-Thursday. I can see students before or after class or during class break on Wednesdays. 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.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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, Western Esotericism and other religious traditions.

Guests will be invited from various religions and we will have ex-members of groups in

our class. We will also visit relevant religious sites. It is mandatory for students to visit the religious sites in order to receive a pass in the course.

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 and new religions have come to the west.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, through participation in class, reading material, research and interaction with Professor Beverley and guests, students should be able to:

- Have a grasp of the basics of Christianity to serve as a standard for analysis of religions
- Understand the options in understanding the religions of the world
- Know the basics of the major world religions
- Know how to interact and assess the various views in religions of the world
- Understand the mission of the Church in relation to other religions

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts

James A. Beverley, *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009)

James A. Beverley, *Mormonism's Moment* (2012)

B. Assignments and Grading

Attendance, Interview and Participation (20%)

Attendance is expected at all classes. **Students who miss more than three classes without exceptional reason will fail the course.**

All students will have a half hour personal interview with Professor Beverley during the course. This will provide an opportunity for the student to share his/her life story and views about Christian faith and other religions.

For the interview the student will prepare a 1000 word answer to these questions: “What are the major events in your life that have shaped your understanding of Christian faith? How do you relate your faith to those who follow other paths? Please provide a timeline of your life as part of the paper for the interview.

Response to two books (30%)

Note on Responding to Professor Beverley’s books

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

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. Write a 2500 word essay from your research.

Final Exam (take home) 20%

C. General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

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.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and

Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

Students must follow the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource)/ [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#) exactly (especially [ch. 14](#); for citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254).

English Comprehension

If you are not proficient in writing or understanding English, please check with the registrar's office about a course designed to help you.

Notice on Written Assignments

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

Special Note about Assignment Due Dates

I am asking all students to hand in the various assignments on a specific class day for the sake of simplicity. However, please do not miss class in order to finish an assignment. Rather, every student can take one extra day after the class date noted to get the assignment done to be considered on time.

Every student can ask for an extension without penalty due to extreme circumstances. Please inform Professor Beverley of these special circumstances in writing.

D. Summary of Assignments and Grading

Attendance, Interview, and Participation	20 %
Response to two books	30 %
Major Research Project	30 %
Final Exam (take home)	20 %
TOTAL	100%

IV. Course Schedule, Content and Required Readings(tentative)

Date	Topic	Assignments
January 16	Introduction to Course Methodology	
January 23	Judaism	
January 30	Judaism	
February 6	Islam	
February 13	Islam	
February 20	Hinduism	
February 27	Hinduism/New Age	Response to groups in IGR

March 6	New Age/Buddhism	
March 13	No Class Reading Week	
March 20	Buddhism	Response to Mormonism
March 27	Witchcraft and Satanism	
April 3	Mormonism	
April 10	Scientology/Conclusions	Research Project Due
April 17	Take Home Exam	

IV. Selected Bibliography

Professor Beverley's textbook contains abundant bibliographical and Internet resources on each religion/group.