



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

**INTERSESSION 2018
WORLD RELIGIONS
MISS 0784 / THEO 0737**

**JANUARY 2 – 6
TUESDAY – SATURDAY, 9 AM – 4 PM**

INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR JAMES A. BEVERLEY

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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.

During Intersession week I can see students after class or in the evening. During the rest of January and through the term 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.

To access your course material, please go to <http://classes.tyndale.ca>. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward emails to your personal account, see <http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu>.

All assignments should be sent to Bekka Paul, Professor Beverley's administrative assistant.
Rebekkapaul@icloud.com

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, Western Esotericism and other religious traditions. [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, through participation in class, reading material, research and interaction with Professor Beverley and guests, students should be able to:

- Identify 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
- 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. *More Than One Way? Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. HarperCollins Canada/Zondervan Carr, 1995.

At the first class and through the 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. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance, Interview and Participation (20%)

Attendance is expected at all classes.

All students will have an interview with Professor Beverley during late February and early March. 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 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.

As reading takes place the student should keep two large questions in mind: (a) what is the most appealing aspect of the group in question that explains its success or impact, and (b) what represents the most significant errors or weaknesses in the group, from a Christian perspective.

Reading and analysis of primary and secondary material is to be done for the most part after the course sessions are complete. 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:

- **January 19:** JUDAISM analysis [Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary]
- **January 26:** ISLAM analysis [Beverley/Evans chapters + primary/secondary]
- **February 2:** HINDUISM analysis [Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary]
- **February 9:** BUDDHISM analysis Nelson book chapter + primary/secondary
- **February 16:** WESTERN ESOTERICISM analysis [Nelson Book chapters 11, 15 and 19 + primary/secondary]

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. Primary source materials on the religions must be incorporated.

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

AFTER the course week, and AFTER your journal/log book 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: FEBRUARY 23

4. 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: MARCH 6

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 policies 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/calendar>.

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 [10.46 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, email, phone number(s), date assignment due, date assignment handed in, and number of hours of work on project.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

| | |
|---|------|
| Attendance, Interview, and Participation [INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED] | 20 % |
| Response to content in Professor Beverley's two books, other secondary reading, and primary reading from each religion studied JUDAISM January 19 ISLAM January 26 HINDUISM February 2 BUDDHISM February 9 WESTERN ESOTERICISM February 16 | 40 % |

| | |
|---|------|
| Response to <i>More Than One Way?</i> Text; Due February 23 | 10 % |
| Major Research Project; Due March 6 | 30 % |
| TOTAL | 100% |

All assignments should be sent to Bekka Paul, Professor Beverley's administrative assistant. Rebekkapaul@icloud.com

E. 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 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, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

| Date | Topic | Assignments |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| January 2 am | Introduction to Course Methodology | |
| January 2 pm | Judaism | |
| January 3 | Islam | |
| January 4 | Hinduism | |
| January 5 | Buddhism | |
| January 6 am | Western esotericism | |
| January 6 pm | Conclusions | |

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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