

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2219B & RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2275G – WINTER 2012

POLITICAL SCIENCE Special Topics 2296G

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM IN CONVERSATION

PROFESSOR: Dr. Lorna M. A. Bowman

OFFICE: Room 181

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 1-2 & Wed. 2-3 or by appointment through email – lbowman@uwo.ca

VOICE MAIL & PHONE: If you need to leave a phone message you may do so at 519-432-8353 ext. 28240

Course Time: Thursday 2:30-5:30 **Room:** 201, Mother St. James Building

Course Description:

This course introduces the foundational beliefs and practices of two of the monotheistic religions, Christianity and Islam, as a basis for understanding, conversation and dialogue between Believers. Small group work, visits to representative religious sites, class presentations and guest speakers.

Antirequisite: Religious Studies 191F/G Special Topics Christianity and Islam in Conversation, offered in 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06 & Religious Studies 2275G & Political Science Special Topics Christianity and Islam in Conversation 2011-2012 3 hours; .5 course (Brescia)

Additional information:

This course is cross-listed as an essay course in Religious Studies and Political Science. This will be reflected in the requirements for assignments to be submitted.

In this course students will become acquainted with the basic teachings of Christianity and Islam. The Islamic content explores a broad array of Islamic beliefs and practices, and examines the key terminology associated with them such as Shari'a Hadith, Sira, Haj, etc. Students will also learn how Christians have responded to their fundamental belief that Jesus is the Son of God and the Saviour of the World. The Christian content also explores the emphases of Christian belief and practices from different theological perspectives, allowing for how this developed in response to major changes in culture and society. *The course is designed to enable Christians and Muslims to learn about each other's beliefs and practices, including those they share, and to enter into respectful conversation and dialogue with one another.*

Course Requirements:

Informed class participation & attendance	10%
*Reflection paper on class learning (guidelines provided)	15%
*Integrative report on visits to representative sites (guidelines provided)	15%
*Research paper: <i>On Being a Perfect Stranger</i> (guidelines provided)	20%
In class self-evaluation	10%
Final exam	30%

* **Guidelines for Evaluative Assignments:** These will be posted on WebCT and distributed in class.

Required Texts:

Ayoub, Mahmoud. M. *Islam: Faith and History*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2004.

The Bible, New Revised Standard Version recommended – The Go-Anywhere Thinlin Catholic Edition has been ordered through the Western Bookstore.

Sardar, Ziauddin & Zafar Abbas Malik. *Introducing Islam*. Singapore: Tien Wah Press, 2004.

The Qur'an, A new translation by M.A. S. Abdel Haleem recommended and has been ordered through the Western Bookstore.

Ward, Keith. *Christianity: A Beginner's Guide*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications 2000/2008.

Learning Outcomes:

When you have completed this course you will be able to:

1. discuss the foundational beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam.
2. identify beliefs and practices held in common.
3. explain the different way in which monotheism is understood in Islam and Christianity.
4. apply your learning through a research paper involving being a guest or visitor at a significant event (e.g., wedding or funeral) of a faith tradition to which you do not belong.
5. understand what “inter-religious” dialogue means and requires in Canada today

PRELIMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: changes will be made to the schedule as required

January 12	Introduction and course overview
January 19	Jesus and The Prophet Mohammed

January 26	Origins and Early Histories of Christianity & Islam
February 2	Revelation: The Bible & The Qur'an
February 9	Mission in Christianity & Islam
February 16	Class Field Trip: Visit to a Mosque
February 23	Reading Week
March 1	Class Field Trip: Visit to a Church
March 8	Core Beliefs: Christianity & Islam

Integrative Report on Field Trips is Due On the 8th

March 15	Core Practices: Christianity & Islam
March 22	Faith & Religious Law

Research Paper Due: On Being a Perfect Stranger on the 22nd

March 29	Women & Gender in Christianity & Islam
April 5	Muslim Ummah & People of God

Reflection Paper on in class learning due on 5th
In class self-evaluation – 10%
 Recap & Review

General Expectations:

1. *Deadlines:* Deadlines are firm, and must be met. Absence from class on the day work is due does not constitute an extension. Any extension must be negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date. Any work submitted after the due date for which you have not followed this procedure may be penalized at five (5) percent per day.

It is particularly important that dates for off-campus events are honoured. Failure to present on the specified date without sufficient prior notification may be penalized by not less than 35% on the integrative research paper.

A medical accommodation for work valued at ***less than*** 10% of your total grade can be established with your instructor. For all other cases, please refer to

Western's policy regarding "Medical Accommodation Policy," available at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . See also *Brescia University College Academic Policies and Regulations* pages 8-10 of this syllabus.

2. Academic Integrity: One operative assumption of this course, as with all university courses, is that all work you submit for marking will be **your** work. You must **properly cite all the sources** from which you gather your ideas and phrasing, and not only the directly quoted material.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar, available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Plagiarism may be penalized with a failing grade in the assignment and an offence record that will be held in the Office of the Academic Dean.

3. Academic Style: There are a number of acceptable styles of documentation: Chicago, MLA and APA. The MLA (Modern Language Association) style is preferred for this course.

The MLA recommends a Name-Page method. In this method, no footnote or endnote is needed. Rather you can make a brief parenthetical citation in your text.

i.e., "Mysticism is seen to be a highly specialized search for reality, for heightened and completed life, which we have found to be a constant characteristic of human consciousness" (Underhill 27).

The parenthetical reference includes the author's surname and the relevant page number with no punctuation intervening. Placed on a separate sheet, at the end of the paper, is placed a list of Works Cited.

The bibliographic form is:

Underhill, Evelyn. *Mysticism: A Study in the Nature and Development of Spiritual Consciousness*. 12th ed. New York: World Publishing, 1930.

The list of "Works Cited" must include an entry for each source you use in your paper.

PLEASE NOTE: An on-line document guide can be found at:
<http://www.lib.uwo.ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca:2048/files/styleguides/MLA.pdf>

This site is particularly helpful in giving examples of the proper way to cite electronic sources.

4. *Inclusive Language:* Use non-sexist, non-discriminatory language in your writing. Language that reinforces sexism, racism, ethnic bias, homophobia, or other forms of prejudice and discrimination should not be used. Some general points: In English, there is the custom of using male terms to refer to the whole human population: “man,” “mankind,” “he,” and “his” are often employed in the generic sense. Since these terms refer also to exclusively male populations, using the same term for the two different meanings is ambiguous. Be specific: if you mean all people, males and females, say so. Instead of man/mankind – use humanity, human beings, human race, people, person(s), individual(s), men and women, women and men.

When writing about certain groups or cultures, try to use words which are currently acceptable to the groups themselves.

5. *A Respectful Learning Environment:* A respectful learning environment is a collective responsibility. We will listen to each other with openness and consideration, respecting individual differences and honouring each person’s right to hold her or his own beliefs. This does not preclude discussion and/or disagreement, but does call for a considerate sharing of opinions and ideas.

6. *Grading:* Grading will be based on the extent and quality of research; on the imagination and critical judgment shown in papers and on the exam.

- A Outstanding. Beyond a thorough grasp of required texts and lectures, shows ability to relate material to life and to other subject areas and to form a personal synthesis; shows good critical judgment in area; very good oral and written expression.
- B Superior/Good. Accurate grasp of required texts and lectures; shows critical judgment, good speaking and writing skills.
- C Satisfactory. Adequate grasp of required texts and lectures in essentials.
- D Unsatisfactory/Poor.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Note: additional readings may be assigned and/or distributed in class

- January 12 Introduction, course overview and introduction to course
Will begin to view: *The Prophet* (film)
- January 19 *Jesus and The Prophet Mohammed*
Read: Ward, Christianity, pp. 46-58
Sardar & Malik, Introducing Islam, pp. 3-10
Ayoub, Islam: Faith and History, pp. 17-29
- January 26 *Origins & Early Histories of Christianity & Islam*
Read: Ward, pp. 1-17
Sardar & Malik, pp. 11-28
Ayoub, pp. 8-17
- February 2 *Revelation: The Bible & The Qur'an*
Read: Preface to Bible re NRSV translation & Introduction to Haleem's
translation of Qur'an, pp. ix – xxxviii – bring texts to class
Ward, pp. 109-116 & 117-129
Sardar & Malik, pp. 30-52
Ayoub, pp. 30- 50
- February 9 *Mission in Christianity & Islam*
Read: Ward, pp. 95-108 & 117-129
Ayoub, pp. 51-69
- February 16 **Class Field Trip: Visit to a Mosque**
- February 23 Reading week
- March 1 **Class Field Trip: Visit to a Church**
- March 8 *Core Beliefs: Christianity & Islam*
Read: Ward, pp. 18-26, 27-35 & 36-45
Sardar & Malik, pp. 53-61
Review Ayoub, pp. 51-69
- Note: Integrative report on visits to Church and Mosque is due using guidelines provided**
- March 15 *Core Practices: Christianity & Islam*
Read: Ward, pp. 165-175
Ayoub, pp. 139-158

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing *10% or more* of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.