PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Dr. Léon van Ommen

Office KCF19 (meetings by appointment)

01124 272382

leon.vanommen@abdn.ac.uk

Discipline Administration:

Administrator to be confirmed

50-52 College Bounds

Room CB001

01224 272366

divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can view their university timetable
at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course we will study what is foundational to theology and religious studies: ritual and the worship. What do we mean by rituals and worship? What is the relationship between them? Does ritual and worship require belief in a deity (or deities). Or do rituals become meaningless in the absence of deep theological and religious convictions and traditions?

Approaching and understanding the world in terms of ritual and worship provides a unique perspective. In this course, we will examine rituals and forms of worship from a variety of religious traditions (e.g. Christian, Islam, Judaism, etc.). Moreover, we will draw on concepts and ideas from the fields of ritual studies and liturgical studies (e.g. sacred space, time, power, symbol, sacrament, prayer, music). We will give particular attention to some case studies, for example, rituals of initiation and healing rites. Scholars and lecturers from a variety of sub-disciplines within Aberdeen’s Department of Theology and Religious Studies will contribute to this course (i.e. Religious Studies, Old and New Testament, Historical and Systematic Theology, and Practical Theology and Ethics).

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of the course the students will be able to:

- demonstrate a basic knowledge of ritual practices in a variety of religions, e.g. Christianity, Buddhism, Islam;
- demonstrate an understanding of core concepts in ritual theory;
- identify and analyse sacred rites and their function;
- compare different rites and their function;
- Critically interact with scholarly literature on ritual;
- Communicate their views and findings in writing;
- Communicate their findings orally;
- Express the value of a ritual perspective on religion.

**READING LIST**

Students should purchase the following book:

- Grimes, Ronald L. *The Craft of Ritual Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. Chapters from Part I and III of the book are assigned to certain weeks of the course. Part II should have been read by the last tutorial for this course and before writing the assignments.

- Additional selected readings will be available on MyAberdeen.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13/9</td>
<td>What is Ritual? Part I Ritual as lens to culture and religion</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
<td>Grimes, Part I, chapter 1; Part III, chapter 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>20/9</td>
<td>What is Ritual? Part II</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
<td>Grimes, Part III, chapter 8</td>
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<td>Observing Rituals</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
<td>Grimes, Part I, chapter 2-3</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>27/9</td>
<td>Ritual and Rhythm</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
<td>Grimes, Part III, chapter 9</td>
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<td>Types of Ritual</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
<td>Grimes, Part III, chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>14/10*</td>
<td>Ritual and Ethics</td>
<td>Dr. Brock</td>
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<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Dr. Brock</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Ritual and Myth</td>
<td>Prof. Segal</td>
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<td>Prof. Segal</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>18/10</td>
<td>Ritual and Myth</td>
<td>Prof. Segal</td>
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<td>Prof. Segal</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>25/10</td>
<td>Five pillars of Islam</td>
<td>Dr. Hadromi-Allouche</td>
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<td>Visit Mosque</td>
<td>Dr. Hadromi-Allouche</td>
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<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>Five pillars of Islam</td>
<td>Dr. Hadromi-Allouche</td>
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<td>Tutorial 7</td>
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<td>Hajj</td>
<td>Dr. Hadromi-Allouche</td>
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<td>Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
<td>8/11</td>
<td>Buddhism?</td>
<td>Dr. Tuladhar-Douglas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tutorial 8</td>
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<td>Poster presentations</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lecture 10</td>
<td>15/11</td>
<td>Christian Baptism and Eucharist</td>
<td>Prof. Macaskill</td>
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<td>Tutorial 9</td>
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<td>Poster presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lecture 11</td>
<td>22/11</td>
<td>Inhabiting a Ritual and Sacramental World</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
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<td>Tutorial 10</td>
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<td>Poster presentations</td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
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<td>(Grimes, Part II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>29/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. van Ommen</td>
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* Dr. Brock’s class will take place on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 4pm in St Andrew’s Cathedral, 28 King Street, Aberdeen.

* **Note for students in the Flexible Programme:** For Dr. Brock’s class and the visit to the mosque in week 13, students in the Flexible Programme receive an alternative assignment instead. The assignment is to visit a worship place and interpret this space from a ritual perspective. Please come prepared with your observations and interpretations to the tutorial on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>. Further instructions will be given during the first tutorial.

**SECONDARY READING**


ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1. Article review (25%) (750 words)
2. Essay (50%) (1500-2000 words)
3. Poster presentation (25%) (500 words)

N.B.! For assignment 1 and 3 students will be working in groups of two. Students of the same group receive the same grade.
Assignment 2 should be individual work.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

ARTICLE REVIEW

The article to be reviewed is taken from the book *Desiring the Kingdom* by James K.A. Smith, Part I, chapter 2 (pp. 75-88). The review should be about 750 words in length, including quotations and footnotes. The review should show your understanding of the course content and readings.

ESSAY

The essay should be between 1500 and 2000 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short.

The essay should concentrate on one specific ritual the student has observed and be related to the content of the lectures and tutorials. The essay should reflect thorough knowledge the textbook by Grimes and include at least two other academic resources.
POSTER PRESENTATION
Students should work in small groups of two for this assignment. They make an A3 poster and write a 500 words commentary, to be attached to the poster. Posters will be presented on 8th or 9th and 15th or 16th November. The poster can be on any topic covered in the course, but should be different from the essay. Topics to be approved by Dr. van Ommen during the second tutorial (27th or 28th September). See further instructions on making the poster and the presentation MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
(The posters (assignment 3) are due one week before the last tutorial session. They will be presented during the last tutorial session.
The Article Review and the Essay are both due on Friday 25 November, 3.00pm.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
When uploading assignments, please do the following:
Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through My Aberdeen.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 DRxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 DRxxxx Essay 1.

If you have been granted an extension, please upload the completed Extension Form (signed by yourself and course coordinator) along with your submission.

When you submit your work please also tick the ‘Mark Reviewed’ Box.

Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: During 2016/2017 the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy has agreed to take part in a pilot. This means for level 1 submissions SafeAssign text
matching software will be used, other levels we will continue to use TurnitinUK. Other schools will also continue to use TurnitinUK.

RESIT INFORMATION

- Resit involves resubmission of course work.

Access to the resit is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been graded at CGS E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.