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 AND COURSE TEAM
Dr Alessandra Cecolin (course coordinator)
Office: CA205, Crombie Annexe
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Dr Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer
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Discipline Administration:
Mrs Lisa Evans
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Dr Alessandra Cecolin will give the lectures on Islam and religion today.
Dr Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer will give the lectures on Judaism.
Dr Armand Léon Van Ommen will give the lectures on Christianity.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course develops a Religious Studies perspective on religions. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions will be explored in their historical, systematic, and practical/ritual dimensions.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The aim is to provide students with a basic understanding of how Religious Studies works and how it promotes the academic study of the practices and beliefs of a range of religious traditions that are relevant to contemporary western societies. Students will
- learn to distinguish a Religious-Studies perspective from other academic and non-academic perspectives;
- understand religious traditions as multi-dimensional constructs;
- be able to interpret the basic features of the traditions studied;
- be able to critically read and analyse primary and secondary sources dealing with religion/s.
LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Judaism

WEEK 1: The Beginnings

TUTORIAL: THE HEBREW BIBLE: CONTENT, FORMATION, CANON

Reading:

LECTURE: FROM MOSES TO MASADA

Reading:

WEEK 2: The Formative Years of Rabbinical Judaism

TUTORIAL: TALMUD AND MIDRASH

Reading:

LECTURE: FROM TIBERIAS TO PUMBEDITA

Reading:

WEEK 3: The Medieval Ages

TUTORIAL: HALACHA AND PHILOSOPHY

Reading:
LECTURE: FROM GOLDEN AGE TO EXPULSION

Reading:
‘History of the Jews in Spain’ –

WEEK 4: – The Modern Period

TUTORIAL: FESTIVALS

Reading:

LECTURE: HERZL, HITLER, AND HATIKVAH

Reading:

ISLAM

WEEK 5: Muhammad and the pillars of Islam

TUTORIAL:
Reading:


Lecture:

Readings:


WEEK 6: Sunni and Shia

Tutorial:


Lecture:
Nigosian, Islam: its history, teaching and practices. Pp.44-59 (Available online through the library catalogue)
Rippin, Muslims: their religious beliefs and practices pp.119-150.

WEEK 7: Islam and Modernity:

Tutorial readings:

Lecture:

P.J. VATIKIOTIS: Muhammad Abduh and the Quest for a Muslim Humanism
http://www.ramadhan.co.uk/~salaam/knowledge/muhammad_abduh.pdf

Week 8: Jesus
Reading:

Week 9: SSSSS: Sacred Sources, Signs, Symbols, and Sacraments
Reading:

Week 10: History of Christianity
Reading:
WEEK 11: Conclusion: Religions Today

Tutorial:

Lecture:

Fitzgerald, Timothy Critical Research on Religion, 2015, Vol. 3(3), pp.303-319 (Available online through Library website)

Ramadan, Tariq, Western Muslims and the Future of Islam, (OUP, 2005) Chapter 9. (Available online through Library website)

WEEK 12: REVISION

READING LIST

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.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will normally be provided within three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

1st Attempt: One 2,000-word essay (40%); 1-two-hour written exam (60%).
Resit: 1 two-hour written exam (100%).

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen – Organisations - Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates.
The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

ESSAYS

‘ESSAYS SHOULD BE 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.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS:
Choose ONE of the following topics:

1. Discuss the key differences between the cult of ancient Israelite and Rabbinical Judaism.
2. Discuss how Zionism changed the concept of Judaism.
3. ‘Can Islam Liberate Women?’
4. What factors explain the development and rise of Islam as an ideology and political and religious force in 7th - early 8th centuries?
5. Discuss the meaning of either Baptism or Eucharist for Christians.
6. Jesus of Nazareth: failed revolutionary or risen Lord?

In all cases, be sure to support your position with evidence from the primary and secondary sources.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay due by 3 pm, Friday 26th March
SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word count.

Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the course coordinator through MyAberdeen.

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.

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: Safeassign text matching software will be used, however the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right to also submit material to TurnitinUK when deemed necessary.

EXAMINATION

The exam is a two hour written examination

RESIT INFORMATION

A two-hour written examination (100%)

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

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

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.
Please Note: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.