

Introduction to Religious Studies

Humanities 130

Section: D100

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Brook W.R. Pearson

Discussion Topics: This course provides an introduction to concepts central to the modern academic study of religion, exploring various relevant methodologies and perspectives.
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By examining current and historical religious expressions against the setting of three famous modern treatments of the origin or function of religion, this course will provide a framework for understanding the many ways in which humans experience the phenomenon of the sacred through symbol, ritual, doctrine and experience.

Emphasis will be placed upon the development and place of religion in Mediterranean and European traditions (particularly Judaism, Christianity and Islam), and on European and European-derived perspectives on religion(s) in the rest of the world.

Grading: 40% - Bi-weekly quizzes\x09

20% - Term project

20% - Attendance and participation

20% - Take-home final examination\x09

Required Texts: Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (ISBN 978-0393008319)

William James, *The Variety of Religious Experience* (ISBN 978-0140390346)

Karl Marx, *Marx on Religion* (ISBN 978-1566399401)

Other texts will be made available through the course website (<http://www.sfu.ca/~bpearson/hum130>), to which you will have access once enrolled.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Students who have taken HUM 230 prior to 2007 may not take this course for further credit.

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.