The University of Newcastle  
Faculty of Education and Arts  
School of Humanities and Social Science  

Student Focus are located at:

- Callaghan  
  Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan  
  Office hours: 9am – 5pm  
  Room: MC127 McMullin Building
- Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan  
  Phone: +61 2 4921 5175 or 5172  
  Fax: +61 2 4921 6933
- Ground Floor, University House, City  
  Email: Humanities-SocialScience@newcastle.edu.au
- Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah  
  Web: www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/

REL13030: Religion, Ritual and Consciousness

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Colin Wilks  
Room: Mc107  
Ph: 49215192  
Email: Colin.Wilks@newcastle.edu.au

Course Overview

Semester: Semester 2 - 2006  
Unit Weighting: 10  
Teaching Methods: Lecture/Seminar

Brief Course Description
Examines the essential elements of religion which are common to all traditions, including ritual, myth, creed, space and time structures, special persons and sacred experience, and the worldviews to which these essential elements give phenomenal expression.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 1 hour and Seminar for 1 hour per week for full semester

Course Objectives
At the conclusion of this course students will understand the various phenomena which characterise religion, understand methodologies appropriate to the comparative study of religions, have detailed knowledge of phenomena characteristic of particular religious traditions and the worldviews to which they give expression, and will have acquired advanced writing, research and information technology skills appropriate to religious studies.

Course Content
Specific course foci will be drawn from the following areas: the phenomena of religion, sacred ritual, sacred mythology, sacred creeds, sacred spatial and temporal structures, sacred persons, sacred experience, the nature of religious consciousness and worldviews, and the interface between religion and broader society.

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | Three written assignments, minor essay 30%, major essay 40%, field report 30% |

Assumed Knowledge
Nil

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2 2006

CTS Download Date: 7 July 2006
Callaghan Campus Timetable
RELI3030
RELIGION, RITUAL AND CONSCIOUSNESS
Semester 2 – 2006

Lecture               Wednesday  15:00 - 16:00  [V02]

and Seminar           Wednesday  16:00 - 17:00  [V103]

Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty. For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking);
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised. Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form. Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/adverse_circumstances.pdf
Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last date to withdraw without financial or academic penalty for semester 2 courses (called the HECS Census Dates) is: **31 August 2006**

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade. Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre. To change your enrolment online, please refer to [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html)

**Contact Details**

Faculty of Education and Arts, Room: GP1-22 Phone: 02 4921 5314

Dean of Students, Dr Jennifer Archer, Ph: 02 4921 5806 [resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)

**Alteration of this Course Outline**

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.


**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: [student-disability@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:student-disability@newcastle.edu.au)

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability)
Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:
- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html
- **Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
  Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** All students must date stamp their own assignments using the machine provided. Mailed assignments to schools are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student's responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website. Prior to final sub-mission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.
Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student Focus.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Focus during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Focus to go to and the earliest date assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:
• Infoskills: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
• http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Consultation
I will be available for consultation by appointment or by phone or email at any time (49215192 or Colin.Wilks@newcastle.edu.au).
Assessment

Students will need to submit three assessment items:

- **Minor Essay** 30% (1000-1500 words) Due August 8th
- **Major Essay** 40% (1500 -2000 words) Due November 4th
- **Field Report** 30% (1000-1500 words) Due November 4th

The assessment items encourage students to engage with as much of the subject matter as possible. One of the essays will deal with the subject matter for weeks 1-6 and the other will deal with an aspect of the subject matter from weeks 7-13. The Field Report (or third essay) will deal with an aspect of the subject matter from weeks 7-13 not dealt with in the minor or major essay, and should be based, at least to some extent, on some form of field work.

Essay Questions

**QUESTION 1** (this question deals with subject matter for Weeks 1-6)

What is a world view and what distinguishes a religious world view from a secular one?

**QUESTION 2** (this question deals with subject matter for weeks 7-13)

With reference to at least one specific example, prepare a general account of one particular phenomena which is common to religions in general.

(the idea here is to show how the specific example(s) conform(s) to the general pattern which is characteristic for the component phenomenon in question)

The religious phenomenon which can be focussed on for the purpose of this essay are:

Religious Myth and Narrative
Religious Ritual
Religious Space and Time
Religious Art
Religious Persons
Religious Experience
Religious Change

It is up to students to decide which of these essay questions they answer as their minor essay and which they answer as their major essay. When the essays are handed in, however, they should be clearly labelled >Minor< and >Major< respectively.
Field Report Topics (or third essay topics)

The range of field work topics is completely open, but students should have the topic they choose approved by the course coordinator prior to embarking on the field work and writing up the field work experience. If, for whatever reason, students are unable to undertake field work, they will be able to submit a third essay instead.

Field Reports should be based on actual experience of some kind (either the student’s own experience of the phenomenon in question, or some other person’s experience of the phenomenon in question) rather than on what can be gleaned from text books.

Topics for the Field Report fall into five broad categories:

- Religious Ritual
- Religious Space and Time
- Religious Art
- Religious Persons
- Religious Experience

More details on the Field Report will be provided in class.

Seminar Presentation

Students will be encouraged to present a short seminar paper in which they discuss the subject matter of their second essay or field report. In week 5 students will be asked to nominate the subject matter on which they intend to present so that a schedule can be drawn up.

Referencing in Assignments

When making use of reference material from books, articles, video recordings etc, you must acknowledge that you are making use of it by referencing it. There are numerous referencing systems which different people in different parts of the university use. If you have already started using one of these and you are comfortable with it, then stick with it. If you do not as yet have one you are comfortable with then I would suggest the Harvard System.

Failing to acknowledge another person’s work with a reference (and thus presenting it as if it were your own) is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism carries severe penalties. For details of the university’s policy on plagiarism, see the web address on the first page of this booklet.

Late Submissions

Extensions on assignments will be granted in special circumstances at the discretion of the course coordinator. Extensions must be applied for prior to the due date for the assessment item in question.
Reading Guide


* Sacred Places in Australia*, Simon and Shuster, 1991


Jones, L., *The Hermeneutics of Sacred Architecture*, 2000,


Tacey, D., *The Spirituality Revolution*


## Schedule of Topics: RELI3030, Semester 2, 2006

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<td>2</td>
<td><strong>ORIGINS OF RELIGION: Where, when, why and how did religion arise?</strong> Functionalist and Non-Functionalist theories of religion’s origins.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>WORLDVIEWS: STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND FUNCTION</strong> What are worldviews? How do worldviews form and what is their function?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>WORLDVIEWS: RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR</strong> What is the difference between a religious worldview and a secular one?</td>
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<td><strong>WORLDVIEWS AND MODERNITY</strong> Worldviews, Modernity and worldviews within worldviews</td>
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<td><strong>BELIEFS AND BELIEVING SEMINAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RELIGIOUS MYTHS, NARRATIVES AND PARABLES SEMINAR</strong></td>
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