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

SOCA2520 - Religion and Politics in Contemporary Society
Course Outline
Semester 1, 2007

Course Co-ordinator: Catherine Laudine
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Email: Catherine.Laudine@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 3.00-4.00pm

Course Overview
Semester 1 - 2007
Unit Weighting 10
Teaching Methods Lecture
Integrated Learning
Tutorial

Brief Course Description
Covers religion in contemporary societies, and in particular the impact of religion on the political arena. Topics include right-wing "fundamentalisms", left-wing religious movements of resistance to social oppression, and religious responses to the environmental crises. Case studies are drawn from various societies (e.g. USA, India, Sri Lanka, Latin America). The aim is to enable students to reach a sympathetic yet critical understanding of the place of these developments in contemporary societies.

Contact Hours
Tutorial for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 12th February 2007
Course Objectives
1. To enable students to understand the variety of religious expressions in the contemporary world.
2. To equip them to make informed and intelligent judgments and appreciations of such expressions.
3. To enable them to understand the social, political and cultural conditions which give rise to such expressions.
4. To enable them to understand the impact on the political process, local and global, of such expressions, in particular in regard to processes of identity formation at individual and group levels.
5. To enable the students to acquire an informed and critical understanding of key concepts employed in this field, including "globalisation," "secularisation" and "fundamentalism".
6. To aid in the development of high-level oral and written communication skills.

Course Content
Topics include right-wing "fundamentalisms", left-wing religious movements of resistance to social oppression, and religious responses to the environmental crises. Case studies are drawn from various societies (e.g. USA, India, Sri Lanka, Latin America). The aim is to enable students to reach a sympathetic yet critical understanding of the place of these developments in contemporary societies.

Assessment Items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>worth 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>worth 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>worth 20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
SOCA1020

Callaghan Campus Timetable
SOCA2520
RELIGION & POL. IN CONTEMP SOCIETY
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2007
Lecture Tuesday 11:00 - 12:00 [SRLT1]
and Tutorial Tuesday 12:00 - 13:00 [V109]
or Tuesday 13:00 - 14:00 [V111]
or Tuesday 14:00 - 15:00 [W202]

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 -


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 will be required to provide written 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 following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.
Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

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 10 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 dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007

For Trimester 1 courses: 16 February 2007

For Trimester 2 courses: 8 June 2007


Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. 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 staff in the Student Hubs.

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)

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.
The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty website**


**Contact details**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**
Phone: 02 4921 5000  
Email: [EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au)

**Ourimbah**
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: [EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au)

**The Dean of Students**
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: [resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: [resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:  

**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.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**

**Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards**

**Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards**

**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

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

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**End of CTS Entry**

**Essential Criteria in Assessment**

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course.

**Assignment 1 - Tutorial Presentation and Paper**

You will be required to give an oral presentation, which sums up and evaluates the major arguments of any one reading, from those listed for the tutorial readings. The following week after your oral presentation you will be required to submit the presentation in a written form so that it can be marked.

Length: 600 words minimum (maximum 1500 words)
Worth: 20% of total marks.
Assignment 2 – First Essay

You will be required to do one essay question based on lectures and tutorial topics given in the first half of the semester. You cannot choose an essay question based substantially on the material on which you gave your tutorial presentation.

Length: 1500-2000 words
Worth: 40% of total marks
Due: Week 7
Essay questions will be distributed during the tutorials

Assignment 3 – Second Essay

You will be required to do one essay question based on lectures and tutorial topics given in the second half of the semester. You cannot choose a second essay question based substantially on the material on which you gave your tutorial presentation OR on which you did your first essay.

Length: 1500-2000 words
Worth: 40% of total marks
Due: Week 14
Essay questions will be distributed during the tutorials

Lecture attendance and tutorial participation is essential

It is part of the requirement of the course that students attend tutorials. Students need to prepare for their tutorials by doing the relevant reading from the book of readings and should contribute to tutorial discussions.

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://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 a penalty unless the student has submitted an Application for Extension of Time by the due date and the application is approved by the Course Coordinator.

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 or double 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 Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **Assignments may be submitted at the Student Hub located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
- **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.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** 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 electronic and hard copy formats.

**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:
- Assignment one – Tutorial Paper
- Assignment two – First Essay
- Assignment three – Second Essay
Prior to final submission, 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 Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.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.

**Re-marks & Moderations**
A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result – in the course to which the assessment item contributes – has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under the Procedures for Appeal against a Final Result (see: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)).
Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

Further detail on this University policy can be found at:


**Return of Assignments**

Students can collect assignments from Level 3 Shortland Union Callaghan Student Hub during office hours. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

**Preferred Referencing Style**

In this course, it is recommended that you 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:

**Student Contacts**

**Essential Online Information for Students**
Information on Class, 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:

### Grading guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail  (FF)</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass  (P)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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### Week beginning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 19</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>June 4</td>
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**Mid-Semester Recess: Friday 6 April to Friday 20 April 2007**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Examination period: Tuesday 12 June to Friday 29 June 2007**
SOCA2520 Religion and Politics in Contemporary Society

STAFF

Subject Co-ordinator
Dr Catherine Laudine
Phone 4921 6316 Room GP2-13

Lecturing Staff
Dr Catherine Laudine
Phone 4921 6316 Room GP2-13
Catherine.Laudine@newcastle.edu.au

School of Social Sciences Office
Phone 4921 5314 Room MC127

Student Consultation

Dr Catherine Laudine will normally be available for consultation on Tuesday from 3.00-4.00pm (otherwise email to organise another time).

Set Texts

There are no set texts for this subject. The readings for the tutorials and lectures have been placed in short loans in Auchmuty Library.

Week by Week Content Details:

Week 1 Introduction: Modernity and the rise of fundamentalism

Lecture Readings

Geertz, Clifford. 1966. Religion as a Cultural System. In The Interpretation of Cultures, pp. 87-126

Organisational Tutorial

Week 2 Palestinian bombers

Lecture Readings

Tutorial Readings


Week 3 Christian fundamentalism

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings.


Week 4, Martyrdom in Japan

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings.


Week 5 Ethnicity Religion and Violence

Lecture Readings

Tutorial Readings


Week 6 Sacrifice and the Sacred

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings


Week 7 Satan and Modernity


Tutorial Readings


Week 8 Modernity and Images of Evil

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings


Week 9 Aborigines and new Mythologies of moral order

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings


Week 10 Millenarianism

Lecture Readings


Tutorial Readings

Week 11 Embodied Memories

Lecture Readings

Tutorial Readings
Stephen, Michele *Cargo Cults, Cultural Creativity, and Autonomous Imagination,* *Ethos* Vol. 25 (3), pp. 333-358

Week 12 Religion and the embodiment of Gender Relations

Lecture Readings

Tutorial Readings

Week 13 Secret Male cults in western Society

Lecture Readings

Tutorial Readings