

REL 101: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, & ISLAM

Schedule: Rooms 466 in Marshfield & 238 in Wausau

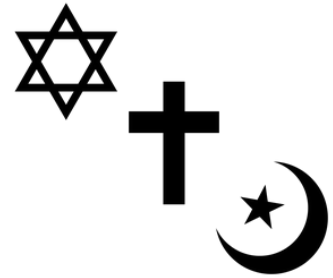
Lecture: Monday, 3:00 – 3:50 PM in Marshfield & Wausau

Discussion Sections:

- M01: Tuesday, 3:00 – 3:50 PM in Marshfield
- W01: Thursday, 3:00 – 3:50 PM in Wausau

Instructor: Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

Email: roleary@uwsp.edu



Description: The history of the sibling faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam spans four thousand years and practitioners can be found across the globe. We will trace the historical development of monotheism from the ancient world to the twenty-first century, with a focus on the complex interplay between text, culture, faith, and practice.

Content-Related Learning Objectives: By taking this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify, describe, and interpret important people, texts, and doctrines in the foundation and development of Western monotheism.
2. Be able to explain key similarities and differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as well as similarities and differences between diverse forms of each tradition.
3. Begin to communicate with peers from different backgrounds and cultures—both in class and online—about perennial questions concerning the human condition.

Skills-Related Learning Objectives: By taking this course, students will have opportunities to:

1. Improve your writing by composing thoughtful and properly documented “Religion in the News” essays about topics relevant to both history and current events.
2. Develop your communication skills by considering and responding to a variety of different ideas, beliefs, or values held by your peers.
3. Expand your awareness of your own beliefs, especially where your values or expectations may or not be shared by others, sometimes even between varieties of similar faith or culture.

Attendance Policy: In this class attendance and participation are necessary to getting a good grade. Each absence beyond the third will result in three points being deducted from the student's final score. If for any reason you need to miss a significant part of the course, it is your responsibility to work out appropriate accommodations with the instructor.

Late Work Policy: Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 1 point per day the assignment is late deducted from any points the assignment earns.

Electronics Policy: Computers, tablets, and cellphones are not permitted in this class. Exemptions to this rule will be made only with official documentation of a disability requiring the use of electronic devices. Students will need to print electronic reserve readings to bring them to class.

READING LIST

Text Rental

Jeffrey Brodd, et al, *Invitation to Western Religions*

Electronic Reserve on Canvas

Selections from the Hebrew Bible

- Genesis 1 – 17
- Exodus chapters 1 – 3 and 19 - 22
- Isaiah 1 – 6
- Ezekiel 1 – 5 and 33 – 37

Selections from the New Testament

- The Gospel of Mark
- Acts 1 – 9

Selections from the Quran

- Surah 1, Opening
- Surah 2, The Cow

Bart D. Ehrman, “The Beginnings of Christian Scripture”

Richard S. Westfall, “The scientific revolution of the seventeenth century: the construction of a new world view”

Films Available Through UWSP Library Online Access via Films on Demand

Inside the Koran

Inside Mecca

A Life Apart: Hasidism in America

Sex and the Wailing Wall: The Battle of the Sexes at the Holiest of Sites

Waiting for Armageddon: The Evangelical Community and Biblical Prophecy

EVALUATION & GRADING

Students will be graded according to a standard 100-point distribution, based on points earned, minus points lost for excessive absences.

97 - 100 = A+	87 - 89 = B+	77 - 79 = C+	67 - 69 = D+	0 - 59 = F
93 - 96 = A	83 - 86 = B	73 - 76 = C	63 - 66 = D	
90 - 92 = A-	80 - 82 = B-	70 - 72 = C-	60 - 62 = D-	

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. You will be asked to identify important people, texts, and doctrines in the foundation and development of Western monotheism, and to show that you understand their roles in the relevant traditions. Each exam will be open-book and cumulative, and each will be worth 20 points.

Total: 40 points

Discussion Boards: Online discussions will supplement in-class discussions by providing a space to consider important people, texts, and doctrines encountered throughout the course, to consider similarities and differences between diverse varieties of Western Monotheism, all in communication with peers from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The instructor will open several discussion threads during the semester; students also have the option of starting threads.

- Each week marked “Discuss Online” in the course schedule, you should:
 - (1) Post a formal and thoughtful answer to one discussion thread prompt or begin a new thread with a prompt designed to engage your peers in thoughtful discussion of a topic related to the course material.
 - (2) Reply to at least two of your classmates’ posts or replies. You may reply to more.
- Each post or new prompt will be worth up to 4 points; each response will be worth up to 2 points. Posts will be graded based on engagement with readings, comprehension, and application of important ideas. Replies and new discussion prompts will be graded on how well they move a conversation forward or spark new avenues of thought.

Total: 40 Points

Religion in the News: Twice throughout the semester, instead of posting on a discussion board, you will use the newspaper databases available through the UWSP Library to research religion in the news today. Bring together three or more articles from reliable news sources which deal with any one issue having to do with religion in today’s world. You may research Judaism, Christianity, Islam, or any of the three in relation. Write a unified summary of the news articles, including an analysis of the issue discussed in them. Give proper citations using the MLA Style Guide. Each essay will be worth 10 points.

Total: 20 Points

REL 101 COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 24

Discussion: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “What Religions Do,” and “Dimensions of Religions,” pages 10 – 21

PART ONE: ANCIENT ORIGINS & MEDIEVAL CONTACTS

Week 2: January 31

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Judaism,” and “The Teachings of Judaism,” pages 119 – 128

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Genesis chapters 1 – 17

Discuss Online #1

Week 3: February 7

Lecture: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Exodus chapters 1 – 3 and 19 - 22

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Isaiah chapters 1 – 6
- ✓ Ezekiel chapters 1 – 5 and 33 – 37

Discuss Online #2

Week 4: February 14

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Judaism” (read through “The Conflict between Judaism and Christianity”), pages 128 – 137

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ The Gospel of Mark
- ✓ Acts chapters 1 – 9

Discuss Online #3

Week 5: February 21

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Christianity,” pages 177 – 179
- ✓ From “Paul and the Mission to the Gentiles” through “Christianity and Other Religions,” pages 184 – 197

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Bart D. Ehrman, “The Beginnings of Christian Scripture”

Discuss Online #4

Week 6: February 28

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Christianity, pages 197 – 209

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ The Quran, Surah 2, verses 1 – 66, 87 – 92, 111 – 124, 214 – 218, 261 – 286

Discuss Online #5

Week 7: March 7

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Islam,” and “The Teachings of Islam,” pages 235 – 254

Discussion: Film

- ✓ *Inside the Koran*

Discuss Online #6

Week 8: March 14

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Islam” (read through “Later Islamic Empires”), pages 254 – 262

Discussion: No Reading

Religion in the News #1

Week 9: March 21—Spring Break!

Week 10: March 28

Lecture: Study and Review

Discussion: First Exam

First Exam

PART TWO: MODERN CHALLENGES

Week 11: April 4

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Religions in the Modern World” and “An Academic Approach to the Study of Religions,” pages 21 – 27

Discussion: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Richard S. Westfall, “The scientific revolution of the seventeenth century: the construction of a new world view”

Discuss Online #7

Week 12: April 11

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ Read from “The Modern Era” through “Women and Judaism,” pages 142 – 152

Discussion: Film

- ✓ *Sex and the Wailing Wall*

Discuss Online #8

Week 13: April 18

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Judaism as a Way of Life,” (read through “Shavuot”), pages 152 – 158
- ✓ “The Sabbath,” pages 160 – 161
- ✓ “Life Cycle Events,” “Other Sacred Practices,” and “Conclusion,” pages 161 – 171

Discussion: Film

- ✓ *A Life Apart: Hasidism in America*

Discuss Online #9

Week 14: April 25

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Christianity in the Modern World,” pages 209 – 218
- ✓ “Christianity as a Way of Life” and “Conclusion,” pages 218 – 229

Discussion: Film

- ✓ *Waiting for Armageddon: The Evangelical Community and Biblical Prophecy*

Discuss Online #10

Week 15: May 2

Lecture: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “New Religious Movements” and “What is ‘New’ About New Religious Movements?” pages 291 – 293
- ✓ “Alternative Christianities and their Offshoots,” pages 298 – 309
- ✓ “The New Atheism” and “Conclusion,” pages 325 – 329

Discussion: No Reading

Religion in the News #2

Week 16: May 9

Lecture: Film

- ✓ *Intelligent Design vs. Evolution*

Discussion: Study and Review

Final Exam

Final Exam

CONCERNS & RESOURCES

Academic Concerns

Being a Pointer means going to class regularly, doing your work outside of class, and asking for help if there are questions or concerns.

Academic Misconduct: Copying off someone's test, plagiarism, claiming credit for work that is not yours, and all other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at UW-Stevens Point. If a student is confused about what exactly academic misconduct is, there is information available regarding rules and procedures for the [process](#). You can also visit with your faculty or learn how to cite the work of others at the [Writing Lab](#).

Academic Success: Your full-time job at UW-Stevens Point is *to be a student*. Being successful depend a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asking questions or finding support if you feel lost. We have an amazing [Tutoring-Learning Center](#) if you want to learn how to be a better student or need subject-specific help.

Disability Services: UW-Stevens Point is committed to supporting students with disabilities the academic and other accommodations, plus the auxiliary aids necessary to ensure your success. To learn more, check out their [site](#) or visit them in Albertson Hall, room 609 (library building).

DUO Student Support: The DUO Center, located in room 107 on the Marshfield campus and room 224 on the Wausau campus, is open to first-generation students, Pell Grant-eligible students, and students with disabilities on the Marshfield and Wausau campuses. It provides students with access to professional tutors in Math and writing. DUO staff meet one-on-one with students to answer questions, prepare for assignments/exams/papers, and simply as a resource to students. Students can meet with the tutor/s regularly or on an as-needed basis – in other words, they support individual students in individualized ways. To learn more about DUO, contact your adviser or stop by the DUO Center.

Other Concerns and Resources

Responding to student concerns with care, concern, and resources is critical in supporting the success of our students and campus community. Here is a brief list of helpful resources.

Absence from Class

Contact faculty directly or if a crisis/emergency
Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Academic Difficulty

Academic & Career Advising Center
715-346-3226, uwsp.edu/acac

Disability Services & Assistive Technology

715-346-3365, uwsp.edu/dtac

Tutoring-Learning Center

715-346-3568, uwsp.edu/tlc

Students should visit with faculty of the course in which they are having trouble.

Add/drop Class; Withdrawal Questions

Office of the Registrar
715-346-4301 uwsp.edu/registrar

Students should visit with their Academic Advisor.

Academic Misconduct

Faculty for the specific course or Office of the Dean of Students to discuss process
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Alcohol or Drug Use

Center for Prevention
715-346-3121, uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv

Bias or Hate Incidents

Office of the Dean of Students to report
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Diversity and College Access

715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Concerning Behavior

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Employment

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Family Crisis or Emergency

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Financial Insecurity

Enrollment Services Center/Financial Aid
715-346-3300; uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices

Emergency Grants
Office of the Dean of Student
715-346-2611; [Grant Application Form](#)

Financial Coaching Program
UW-Stevens Point School of Business and
Economics

[Website](#) or email: fincoach@uwsp.edu

Financial Literacy - Online
[GradReady Program](#)

Financial Literacy - In Person
Financial Literacy Association (Student Org.)
College of Professional Studies, finlit@uwsp.edu

Food Resources

The Cupboard - Stevens Point campus
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case
[List of food resources in the community in
Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wausau](#)

Housing/Roommate Concerns

Residential Living (your Hall Director first)
715-346-3511 (central office), uwsp.edu/resliving

Identity and Difference

Diversity and College Access
715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Involvement

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Legal Questions

Student Legal Services
715-346-4282, uwsp.edu/dos/sls

Loss of Family Member or Friend

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

Mental Health Concerns

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

Mental Health Crisis Line (outside agency)
866-317-9362 for after hours mental health support

Missing Student

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

University Police
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Non-academic Misconduct

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Physical Health / Injury

Student Health Service (confidential resource)
715-346-4646, uwsp.edu/stuhealth

Procedural Issue or Conflict

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

**Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating
Violence, Stalking, or Harassment**

Office of the Dean of Students to report
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

CAP Services - Stevens Point (confidential
advocacy services, outside agency)
715-340-7882, 715-346-4039, 800-472-3377 (toll
free), kpetrick@capmail.org, capservices.org

PDC - Marshfield (confidential advocacy services,
outside agency)
715-421-1509 or 844-210-8899 (toll free)

The Women's Community - Wausau (confidential
advocacy services, outside agency)
715-842-8323 or 888-665-1234 (toll free)

Center for Prevention (confidential services)
715-346-3121, uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

University Police and Security Services
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Title IX

Haeryon Kim, 116 Old Main, 715-346-
3020, hakim@uwsp.edu, [Title IX site](#)

Transportation

[UWSP Rideshare Facebook Page](#)
[Stevens Point Bus Route](#)
[Bus connections from Stevens Point](#)

Questions or Concerns Not Listed Here

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos