

Syllabus

Faith and Culture
RS 2241 G
Winter 2019-20
Mon. & Wed. 9:30 - 11:00 am

Instructor: Name: Fr. Denis Grecco, Ph.D
 Office: SPS 204 (St. Peter's Seminary)
 Hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:00 - 12:00
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Required Text: The '*Faith and Culture*' course-pack is available at the UWO bookstore.

Course Description

A study that will explore four shifts in culture that pose questions to religious faith and the response of Christian thinkers. The questions are precipitated by the rise of the scientific method, internet technology, climate change, and political participation.

Reading

Required readings consist in a set of scholarly articles that have been chosen with care to elucidate some of the key questions in field of faith and culture. Be attentive as you read and thoughtful in your comments about them. On average three to four hours of reading are expected of you each week.

Seminar Participation

Come to class prepared to engage in a discussion of the assigned readings with your comments, questions, and insights. The seminar is intended to help you process your thinking, together with others, about the designated topics. For this purpose you are asked to identify aspects of the readings that 'seize your attention' and briefly explain the reason(s) for this and any questions that arise from it. Each student is asked to share likewise. Your attendance and thoughtful contribution to the class conversations are valued and are considered in the grade for participation. Taking notes from the discussion may assist you in writing the final exam.

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Classes

Jan 6	Starting Points		
Jan 8	Faith	Feb 26	Midterm Exam
Jan 13	Culture		

III. Faith and Ecology

I. Faith and Science

		Mar 2	Next Generation: Do We Care?
Jan 15	Can Scientists be Religious?	Mar 4	Noah and the Climate Crisis
Jan 20	Trial of Galileo	Mar 9	Pope Francis: <i>Laudato Si'</i>
Jan 22	Galileo Affair & Timeline	Mar 11	COP24 / Call to Action
Jan 27	Letter of Galileo		
Jan 29	Letter of John Paul II		

IV. Faith and Politics

II. Faith and Technology

		Mar 16	Whose Needs & Obligations?
		Mar 18	Governance & the Common Good
Feb 3	How is I.T. Changing Us?	Mar 23	Salvation & Social Responsibility
Feb 5	Faith and Social Media	Mar 25	Dignity of Persons
Feb 10	Relationships: Viral or Embodied	Mar 30	Law, Religion, & Society
Feb 12	Mind: Consumed or Cultivated		
Feb 24	Mind's Rewards: Immediate or Delayed	Apr 1	Faith & Culture in Dialogue

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices and Communications

No texting or use of electronic devices in class with the exception of the sole purpose of taking notes. Notify the instructor of your absence from class (e-mail preferred). Emails will be answered as soon as possible from Monday to Friday.

Participation

Grading for participation includes attendance, active participation by making thoughtful contributions to the class discussion on the designated readings; listening well to the contribution of others, and responding respectfully. The following is a guide to participation:

- Level 1: (60 +) Participation in class discussion is minimal and includes attendance at all classes.
- Level 2: (70 +) Participation in class is average; student puts in a good effort to discuss their understanding of the reading.
- Level 3: (80 +) Participation in class is above average; student is prepared and contributes to a deeper understanding of the reading.
- Level 4: (90 +) Participation is outstanding. The student is exceptionally well-prepared for class, inspired, motivated and draws out the contribution of others without dominating the discussion.

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Examinations

A midterm and final examination will provide you with an opportunity to tie together the various threads of the course arising from the readings, lectures, questions, and discussions.

Grading

15%	Attendance & Seminar Participation
20 %	Midterm Exam
30%	Research Essay
35 %	Final Exam

Graded assignments will be returned to students in class. Grades will not be made available through e-mail. Access to final grades is through the UWO website. No texting or use of electronic devices in class except for the purpose of the course. Notify the instructor of your absence from class (e-mail preferred). Emails will be answered as soon as possible from Monday to Friday.

University Regulations taken from Western University Academic Calendar:

Statement on Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf." "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Plagiarism and Scholastic Discipline

"Plagiarism is the "act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own." (Excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This is the definition used by Western's **Scholastic Discipline** document. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. Either way, plagiarism is a **Scholastic Offence**." Western **resources** can help students **avoid plagiarism**: See the website: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism>.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection

"A student in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Many courses have prerequisites or require the approval of the Department. These requirements, and any enrolment limitations, should be noted carefully prior to registration. Substitutions for prescribed courses require the written approval of the Department and the Dean. Students registering in the Fall/Winter Session and intending to take second-term half-courses must register for those courses during the course registration period." "Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enrol in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Support Services

"Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help." Students who need accommodation for medical illness should refer to the following site: http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf Students can access the required Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform/pdf