

# Course Schedule

**IMPORTANT:** ALL TIMES EASTERN - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Course Outline for details.

Week	Module	Readings and Other Assigned Material	Activities and Assignments	End/Due Date	Weight (%)
Week 1	Module 01: <a href="#">Evil in the Modern Age</a>	<p><b>Online Video:</b></p> <p>TED Talk: <a href="#">Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil.</a></p> <p><b>Online Reading:</b></p> <p>Pew Research Center, Religion &amp; Public Life, Demographic Study: <a href="#">The Global Religious Landscape</a>, 2012</p> <p><b>Textbook:</b></p> <p>Elie Wiesel, <i>Night</i>. Hill and Wang, A division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.</p> <p><b>Online Reading:</b></p> <p>Pew Research Center's Religion &amp; Public Life:</p>	<p><a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a></p>	<p>Friday, September 10, 2021 at 11:55 PM</p>	<p><b>Ungraded</b></p>

Module 02: [Judaism](#),  
 Week 2 [Modernity and The  
 Holocaust](#)

**Online Video:**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:  
[The Path to Nazi Genocide](#)

Inform instructor if  
 opting out of Turnitin  
 for your [Written  
 Assignment](#)

Monday,  
 September 13,  
 2021 at 11:55 PM

**Online Reading:**

Hebrew English Bible (Old Testament):

- [Genesis 12, 15, 17](#)
- [Leviticus 16, 19](#)
- [Job 38](#)
- [Isaiah 40](#)
- [Amos 5: 18-24](#)

**Online Reading:**

Hebrew English Bible (Old Testament), The

Ten Commandments:

- [Exodus 20: 1-17](#)
- [Deuteronomy 5: 4-21](#)

Quiz 1 **OPENS:**

Thursday,  
 September 23,  
 2021 at 6:00 AM

Module 03: [Judaism, the  
 Holocaust, and Israel](#)

Week 3

**Online Reading:**

Rabbi Lerner, Tikkun Magazine:

[Quiz 1: Modules 1-3](#)

**20%**

- [God: A Jewish Renewal  
 \(Kabbalistic-Mystical-  
 NeoHasidic\) Approach to God.](#)  
 Stop at this sentence: "So who  
 is God? In my Jewish Renewal  
 account, God is the Force of

Quiz 1 **CLOSES:**

Friday, September  
 24, 2021 at 9:00  
 AM

- [Ten Commitments](#)

### Online Reading:

Hebrew English Bible (Old Testament):

- Module 04: [Roman](#)
- [Genesis 1-3](#)
  - [Luke 6, 15](#)
  - [Matthew 5, 25](#)
- Week 4 [Catholicism, Innovation,](#)

[and Modern Evil](#)

### Reading:

Baum, Gregory. "[John Paul II and Structural Sin](#)." In *Essays in Critical Theology*, 189-204. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1994.

### Online Reading:

Miller, Robert. "[The Doctrine of Discovery: The International Law of Colonialism](#)", 1970.

Module 05:

- Week 5 [Colonization, Modernity](#)  
[and Evil](#)

### Reading:

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. "[Idolatry and Death](#)." In *The God of Life*, 49-64. Maryknoll (N.Y.): Orbis Books, 1991.

Reading Week (Saturday, October 9, 2021 to Sunday, October 17, 2021)

Quiz 2 **OPENS:**

Thursday, October

### Reading:

21, 2021 at 6:00

Week 6

[Quiz 2: Modules 4-6](#)

20%

[Evil in Modern Society](#) ideologies: an introduction, 1-14. Basingstoke:

Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Quiz 2 CLOSES:

Friday, October 22,

2021 at 9:00 AM

**Online Video:**

Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott and Joel Bakan,

[The Corporation](#), (2004).

**Reading:**

McQuaig, Linda. "[Nudists and Capitalists](#)." In

*All You Can Eat: Greed, lust, and the new*

*capitalism*, 1-39. Toronto: Penguin/Viking,

2001.

Module 07: [Economic](#)

Week 7

[Liberalism](#)

**Optional Reading:**

Klein, Naomi. "[Hot Money: How Free Market](#)

[Fundamentalism Helped Overheat the Planet](#)."

In *This changes everything: capitalism vs. the*

*climate*, 64-95. London: Penguin Books, 2015.

**Online Video:**

NFB: Marilyn Waring: [Who's Counting](#):

[Marilyn Waring On Sex, Lies And Global](#)

[Economics](#), 1995.

- Watch from 0:00 to 6:55
- Watch 29:44 to 36:00. ("Cathy" from 29:44 to 33:15 and "Ben" from 33:16 to 36:00)

**Online Reading:**

Vatican, [Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii](#)

Module 08: [The Pope and the Planet](#)

[Gaudium of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops.](#)

- Chapter 2, [52-75]
- Chapter 4, [202-216]

**Vatican:**

[Encyclical Letter, Laudato Si', of the Holy Father Francis, On Care for our Common Home.](#)

- [10-26]
- [65-75]

**Online Reading:**

Buddhanet, The Illustrated Dhammapada:

- [Chapter 14: The Buddha](#)
- [Chapter 3: Mind](#)

Quiz 3 **OPENS:**

Thursday,

November 11,

2021 at 6:00 AM

Module 09: [The](#)

**Reading:**

[Environmental Crisis: A Buddhist Perspective:](#)

The Maha Prajna Paramita Hrdaya Stutra - [The Quiz 3: Modules 7-9](#)

**20%**

Week 9

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part I](#)

Friday, November

**Textbook:**

12, 2021 at 9:00

Hanh, Thich Nhat. "Part 1 and 2." In *Peace is*

AM

*Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in*

*Everyday Life*, 5-91. Bantam/AJP, 2013.

**Online Reading:**

Plum Village:

Module 10: [The](#)

- [The Five Mindfulness Trainings.](#)

[Environmental Crisis: A](#)

- [The Fourteen Mindfulness Trainings.](#)

Week 10

[Buddhist Perspective:](#)

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part II](#)

**Textbook:**

Hanh, Thich Nhat. "Part 3." In *Peace is Every*

*Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday*

*Life*, 95-134. Bantam/AJP, 2013.

**Reading:**

Kaza, Stephanie. "[Acting with Compassion:](#)

Module 11: [Buddhist](#)

[Buddhism, Feminism, and the Environmental](#)

Week 11

[Eco-Feminism](#)

[Crisis.](#)" In *Ecofeminism and the Sacred*, edited

by Carol J. Adams, 50-69. New York:

Continuum, 1993.

Quiz 4 OPENS:

Thursday,

at 6:00 AM

Module 12: [Conclusion](#): **Optional Reading:**

[Quiz 4: Modules 10-12](#)

**20%**

Week 12

[Religious Responses to](#) Mills, C. Wright. "[The Promise](#)." In *The*

[Evil in the Modern](#) *Sociological Imagination*, 1-13. Oxford:

[World](#) Oxford University Press, 2001.

Quiz 4 CLOSSES:

Friday, December

3, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Monday,

[Written Assignment](#)

December 6, 2021 **20%**

at 11:55 PM

# Final Examination

There is no Final Examination for this course.

# Contact Information

## Announcements

Your instructor uses the **Announcements** widget on the **Course Home** page during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc., as needed. You are expected to read the announcements on a regular basis.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

## Discussions

A [General Discussion](#) topic\* has also been made available to allow students to communicate with peers in the course. Your instructor may drop in at this discussion topic.



## Who and Why

## Contact Details

### Instructor

- Course-related questions (e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.)
- Questions of a personal nature

**Post your course-related questions** to the [Ask the Instructor](#) discussion topic\*. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well.

**Questions of a personal nature** can be directed to your instructor.

Instructor: Carmen Celestini  
[ccelesti@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ccelesti@uwaterloo.ca)

Your instructor checks email and the [Ask the Instructor](#) discussion topic\* frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday.

[learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca)

### Technical Support, Centre for Extended Learning

- Technical

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

problems

with

Waterloo

LEARN

Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

[IST Knowledge Base: For Students](#)

## Learner Support

Services,

Centre for Extended

Learning

[Student Resources](#)

[extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca)

□ General

inquiries

□ Examination

information

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

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\*Discussion topics can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above.

# Description

This course is about the death of millions, even tens of millions, of people. It is about slavery, colonialism and imperialism, war and genocide, intentional mass starvation, the threat of nuclear weapons, and ecological destruction. While modern society has brought many advances, it has also given us the power to kill on an unprecedented scale. Much of the evil of the 20th and 21st centuries would not be possible without modern technology, bureaucracy, ideology, and the political, economic, and social structures of a modern society. We will examine how religious communities respond to these new forms of evil.

We will look at a number of religious thinkers who attempt to understand modern societies and the unique forms of evil they produce. These thinkers turn to ancient writings, ideas, values, and practices to address the problem of evil in the modern world. They come up with some startling suggestions. For example, many of them find that their own traditions often contribute to the problem. They also find sources of wisdom and goodness in them to offer solutions to confront the evil they see around them. Finally, they allow us to analyze the nature of the evil in the world and in each one of us.

As this is a first-year course in Religious Studies, we will also learn how Religious Studies scholars look at religion and the specific traditions we will be examining. Do not be concerned about the number of readings from ancient religious scriptures. Each passage is only a few paragraphs long.

*This online course was developed by David Seljak, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning.*

# About the Course Author

## Course Author — David Seljak

Professor David Seljak is the author of RS 121 — Evil. Professor Seljak teaches Religious Studies at St. Jerome's University. His major area of specialization is the sociology of religion and social ethics. He has published many works on religion and Canadian society and is co-editor (with Paul Bramadat, University of Winnipeg) of *Religion and Ethnicity in Canada* (Toronto: Pearson, 2005).

Dr. Seljak is not involved in the ongoing delivery and administration of this course. For each term the course is offered, a qualified course instructor is chosen. Communication regarding course content should be addressed to the instructor listed on the [Contact Information](#) page.



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# Materials and Resources

## Textbooks

### Required

- 1 Wiesel, Elie. (2006). *Night*. Hill and Wang.
- 2 Kozol, Jonathan. (2012). *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. Crown.

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [Waterloo Bookstore](#).

For your convenience, you can compile a list of required and optional course materials through [BookLook](#) using your Quest userID and password. If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519-888-4673 or toll-free at +1 866-330-7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

# Course Reserves

The course textbooks are also available for a 3 day loan from the library. Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page.

In order to access the ebooks through Hathi Trust:

- 1 Click on the "**View Item**" link in course reserves
- 2 Click on the "**Login**" button for HathiTrust
- 3 Select "**Waterloo**" from the list of institutions and click "**Continue**"
- 4 Login with your **uWaterloo username/password**
- 5 Click on the "**Temporary Access**" link at the bottom of the book's record in HathiTrust
- 6 Click the "**Checkout**" button

# Resources

- Library services for [Co-op students on work term and students taking online courses](#)

□





# Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

## Activities and Assignments Weight (%)

Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Quiz 1 - Modules 1-3	20%
Quiz 2 - Modules 4-6	20%
Quiz 3 - Modules 7-9	20%
Quiz 4 - Modules 10-12	20%
Written Assignment	20%

There is no Final Examination

## Official Grades

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through [Quest](#).



# Late Assignments

A late penalty of 5% per day (including Saturday and Sunday) will be strictly enforced. If you are going to be late, contact the instructor before the deadline. No papers will be accepted after one week past the deadline.

# University Policies

## Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the [Ontario, Canada Time Converter](#) .

## Accommodation Due to Illness

**If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:**

### Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

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Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem, and preferably within 48 hours, but no more than 72 hours, have a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#) .

**Email** a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form to your instructor. In your email to the instructor, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what course activity you missed.

Further information regarding Management of Requests for Accommodation Due to Illness can be found on the [Accommodation due to illness](#) page.

## Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** Undergraduate students should see the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and graduate students should see the [Graduate Students and Academic Integrity](#) website.

Proper citations are part of academic integrity. Citations in CEL course materials usually follow CEL style, which is based on APA style. Your course may follow a different style. If you are uncertain which style to use for an assignment, please confirm with your instructor or TA.

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) .

## Turnitin

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are

[Turnitin® at Waterloo](#)

## Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes [academic integrity](#) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#) . For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#) .

## Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#) , (other than a petition) or [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#) , may be appealed if there is a ground. A

Fall 2021 RS 121 Online University of Waterloo  
student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#) .

## Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#) , Section 4. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

## Final Grades

In accordance with [Policy 46 - Information Management](#) , Appendix A - Access to and Release of Student Information, the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to [Quest](#) to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo LEARN are unofficial.

## AccessAbility Services



[AccessAbility Services](#) , located in Needles Hall, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

## Accessibility Statement

The Centre for Extended Learning strives to meet the needs of all our online learners. Our ongoing efforts to become aligned with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) are guided by University of Waterloo accessibility [Legislation](#) and policy and the [World Wide Web Consortium's \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#) . The majority of our online courses are currently delivered via the Desire2Learn Learning Environment. Learn more about [Desire2Learn's Accessibility Standards Compliance](#) .

## Use of Computing and Network Resources

# Copyright Information

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If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca).