

# Course Schedule

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

Week	Module	Readings and Other Assigned Material	Activities and Assignments	End/Due Date	Weight (%)
					<b>Ungraded</b>
		<p><b>Online Video:</b></p> <p>TED Talk: <a href="#">Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil.</a></p>			
Week 1	Module 01: <a href="#">Evil in the Modern Age</a>	<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>Inform instructor if opting out of Turnitin for your <a href="#">Written Assignment</a></p>	<p>Monday, January 7, 2019 at 11:55 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 14, 2019 at 11:55 PM</p>	

[Jews](#), 2012.

Module 02: [Judaism](#),

**Online Video:**

Week 2 [Modernity and The](#)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

[Holocaust](#)

[The Path to Nazi Genocide](#)

**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, January

24, 2019 at 6:00

AM

Week 3

Module 03: [Judaism, the](#)

**Online Reading:**

Rabbi Lerner, Tikkun Magazine:

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

**20%**

[Holocaust, and Israel](#)

- [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, January 25,

2019 at 9:00 AM

Healing and Transformation  
that calls the world to love and  
mutual caring.”

- [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.

Quiz 2 **OPENS:**

Thursday, February

14, 2019 at 6:00

### Reading:

Module 06: [Ideology](#)

Heywood, Andrew. "[Introduction](#)." In *Political*

AM

Week 6 [and Evil in Modern](#)[Quiz 2: Modules 4-6](#)

20%

[Society](#)

ideologies: an introduction, 1-14. Basingstoke:

Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Quiz 2 CLOSSES:

Friday, February

15, 2019 at 9:00

AM

**READING WEEK (Sunday, February 17, 2019 to Saturday, February 23, 2019)**

**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*Module 07: [Economic](#)

Week 7

[Liberalism](#)*capitalism*, 1-39. Toronto: Penguin/Viking,

2001.

**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](#)

**Week 8**

[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, March

14, 2019 at 6:00

AM

Module 09: [The](#)

**Reading:**

[Environmental Crisis: A](#)

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

**20%**

**Week 9**

[Buddhist Perspective:](#)

[Heart Sutra](#), Kwan Um School of Zen.

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part I](#)

Quiz 3 **CLOSES**:

Friday, March 15,

2019 at 9:00 AM

**Textbook:**

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

*Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in*

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

**Online Reading:**

Plum Village:

Module 10: [The](#)

□ [Five Mindfulness Trainings](#).

[Environmental Crisis: A](#)

□ [The Fourteen Mindfulness Trainings](#).

**Week 10**

[Buddhist Perspective:](#)

**Textbook:**

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part II](#)

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, April 4,

2019 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, April 5,

2019 at 9:00 AM

Tuesday, April 9,

[Written Assignment](#) 20%

2019 at 11:55 PM

# Final Examination

There is no Final Examination for this course.

# Official Grades and Course Access

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

Your access to this course will continue for the duration of the current term. You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.





# 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.

# Contact Us

## 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  
[ccelestini@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ccelestini@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).

[LEARN Help Student Documentation](#)

## Learner Support

### Services,

Centre for Extended

Learning

### [Student Resources](#)

- General

inquiries

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

+1 519-888-4002

- WatCards

(Student ID  
Cards)

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

- Examination  
information

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



## Course Description

# 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

## Textbook(s)

### Required

- 1 Wiesel, Elie. (2006). *Night*. Hill and Wang.
- 2 Hanh, Thich Nhat. (1992). *Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life*. Bantam.

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.

## Resources

- [Library services for co-op students on work term and distance education students](#)
- [Counselling Services](#) website

## Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

<b>Activities and Assignments</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Quiz 1 - Week 3 - Modules 1-3	20%
Quiz 2 - Week 6 - Modules 4-6	20%
Quiz 3 - Week 9 - Modules 7-9	20%
Quiz 4 - Week 12 - Modules 10-12	20%
Written Assignment	20%

## Course Policies

# 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.

## Missed Final Examinations

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If this course has a final exam and if you are unable to write a final examination due to illness, seek medical treatment and have a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#). Email a scanned copy to the Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) at [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca) within 48 hours of your missed exam. Make sure you include your name, student ID number, and the exam(s) missed. You will be **REQUIRED** to hand in the original completed form before you write the make-up examination.

After your completed Verification of Illness Form has been received and processed, you will be emailed your alternate exam date and time. This can take up to 2 business days. If you are within **150 km** of Waterloo you should be prepared to write in Waterloo on the additional CEL [exam dates](#). If you live outside the 150 km radius, CEL will work with you to make suitable arrangements.

Further information about [Examination Accommodation Due to Illness](#) regulations is available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 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 provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

[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 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

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of Waterloo Computing and Network Resources](#).

# Copyright Information

## **UWaterloo's Web Pages**

All rights, including copyright, images, slides, audio, and video components, of the content of this course are owned by the course author, unless otherwise stated. These web pages are owned or controlled by the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning. By accessing the web pages, you agree that you may only download the content for your own personal, non-commercial use. You are not permitted to copy, broadcast, download, store (in any medium), transmit, show or play in public, adapt, or change in any way the content of these web pages for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of the course author and the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning.

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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).