

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 1: Evil in the Modern Age	<p>Online Video:</p> <p>TED Talk: Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil.</p> <p>Online Reading:</p> <p>Pew Research Center, Religion & Public Life, Demographic Study: The Global Religious Landscape, 2012.</p> <p>Textbook:</p> <p>Elie Wiesel, <i>Night</i>. Hill and Wang, A division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. (Course Reserves)</p> <p>Online Reading:</p>	Introduce Yourself	Friday, May 12, 2023 at 11:55 PM	Ungraded

Pew Research Center's Religion & Public

Life: [Jews](#), 2012.

Inform instructor if

Module 2: [Judaism](#).

opting out of Turnitin Monday, May 15,

Week 2 [Modernity and The](#)

Online Video:

for your Written 2023 at 11:55 PM

[Holocaust](#)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

Assignment*

[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, May 25,

2023 at 6:00 AM

Module 3: [Judaism, the](#)

Week 3

Online Reading:

Rabbi Lerner, Tikkun Magazine (Course

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

20%

[Holocaust, and Israel](#)

Reserves):

Quiz 1 **CLOSES:**

- [God: A Jewish Renewal \(Kabbalistic-Mystical-NeoHasidic\) Approach to God](#)

Friday, May 26,

2023 at 9:00 AM

Stop at this sentence: "So who is God? In my Jewish Renewal account, God is the Force of

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

- [Ten Commitments](#)

Online Reading:

Hebrew English Bible (Old Testament):

- [Genesis 1-3](#)
- [Luke 6, 15](#)
- [Matthew 5, 25](#)

Module 4: [Roman](#)

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.

(Course Reserves)

Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. "[21](#)

Week 5

Module 5: [Colonization,](#)

[Modernity and Evil](#)

[Things You May Not Have Known About The](#)

[Indian Act](#)." (Course Reserves)

Reading:

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. "[Idolatry and Death](#)." In

The God of Life, 49-64. Maryknoll (N.Y.):

Orbis Books, 1991.

Quiz 2 OPENS:

Thursday, June 15,

2023 at 6:00 AM

Reading:

Week 6

Module 6: [Ideology and Evil in Modern Society](#)

Heywood, Andrew. "[Introduction](#)." In *Political ideologies: An introduction*, 1-14. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

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

20%

Quiz 2 CLOSSES:

Friday, June 16,

2023 at 9:00 AM

Online Video:

Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott and Joel Bakan, [The Corporation](#), 2004.

Reading:

Week 7

Module 7: [Economic Liberalism](#)

McQuaig, Linda. "[Nudists and Capitalists](#)." In *All You Can Eat: Greed, lust, and the new capitalism*, 1-39. Toronto: Penguin/Viking, 2001. (Course Reserves)

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:

Week 8
Module 8: [The Pope and the Planet](#)

Vatican, [Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii](#)

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

[Bishops](#). (Course Reserves)

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

Vatican:

[Encyclical Letter, Laudato Si', of the Holy](#)

[Father Francis, On Care for our Common](#)

[Home](#). (Course Reserves)

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

Online Reading:

Buddhanet, The Illustrated Dhammapada:

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

Online Video:

Plum Village, "[A Cloud Never Dies!](#)

[biographical documentary of Zen Master](#)

[Thich Nhat Hanh narrated by Peter Coyote.](#)"

Quiz 3 **OPENS:**

Thursday, July 6,

2023 at 6:00 AM

Module 9: [The](#)

[Environmental Crisis: A](#)

[Buddhist Perspective:](#)

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part I](#)

Week 9

(Course Reserves)

[Quiz 3: Modules 7-9](#)

20%

Reading:

The Maha Prajna Paramita Hrdaya Stutra -

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

Quiz 3 **CLOSES:**

Friday, July 7, 2023

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 (Course Reserves):

- [The Five Mindfulness Trainings.](#)
- [The Fourteen Mindfulness Trainings.](#)

Module 10: [The](#)

[Environmental Crisis: A](#)

[Buddhist Perspective:](#)

[Thich Nhat Hanh, Part II](#)

Week 10

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. (Course Reserves)

Quiz 4 **OPENS:**

Thursday, July 27,

2023 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 **CLOSES:**

Friday, July 28,

2023 at 9:00 AM

Monday, July 31,

Written Assignment* **20%**

2023 at 11:55 PM

* The Written Assignment can be accessed by clicking **Content** on the course navigation bar above and then **Activities and Assignments** from the Table of Contents menu.

Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page.

There is no final examination for this course.



Contact Information

Announcements

You are expected to check **Announcements** on the **Course Home** page on a regular basis. To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

Discussions

Discussion topics can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above. A [General Discussion](#) topic has been made available to allow you to communicate with your peers in this 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

Technical Support, Centre for Extended Learning

- Technical problems with

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: David Seljak
dseljak@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

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

Technical support is available during regular

Waterloo
LEARN

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

□ General

inquiries

□ Examination

information

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

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 and Instructor

Course Author and Instructor — 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).



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Materials and Resources

Textbooks

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

[Course Reserves for Students](#) are used in this course. 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 students taking online courses](#)
- [Counselling Services](#) website

Grade Breakdown

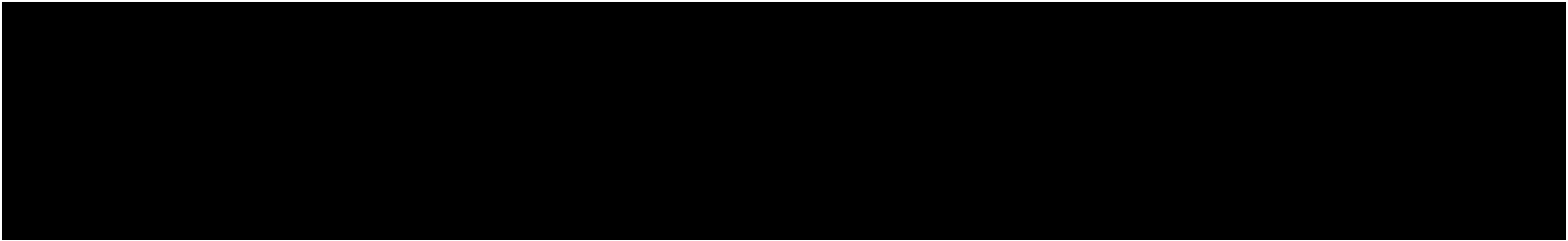
The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

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 for this course.

Official Grades

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



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.

Academic Offences

Students are not allowed to use Artificial Intelligence tools for their Written Assignment. Submitting work written by AI, without appropriate attribution, constitutes an academic offence.

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](#) .

Short-Term Absences

Review the University of Waterloo's [Accommodations](#) policy for more details.

Additionally, undergraduate students have the option to self-declare a short-term absence during the formal lecture period by following the [Undergraduate student short-term absences](#) process outlined by the Registrar's Office.

Please follow the instructions above and contact your instructor for applicable accommodations.

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 [Undergraduate Academic Integrity Module](#) 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

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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>).

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[Credits and Copyright \(/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=905001&type=content&rcode=uWaterloo-460859\)](#)