

CURE 2157 Intermediate Seminar

Lecture Time: Mon 14:30-16:15; Venue: Li Dak Sum Building (LDS)_218
 Tutorial Time: Mon 16:30-17:15; Venue: Li Dak Sum Building (LDS)_218
 Language: C&E&P
 Lecturer: Dr. LEE Chi Shing
 E-mail: chishinglee002@cuhk.edu.hk

1. Course Description

The course is designed to facilitate students to develop academic writing skills in Religious Studies with support from other class members and the instructor. Students are encouraged to pursue their own academic interests, informed by the themes or topics they have encountered in taught components of the Religious Studies Program, and to develop appropriate research strategies to explore the study questions, develop a sustained argument, as well as effective academic writing and presentation skills. Students will be asked to present orally in a seminar setting, where the participants will have an opportunity to respond to the presentations.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to:

- Identify a research topic;
- Collect and synthesize evidence from a wide range of primary and secondary sources applicable to the study of religion;
- Express ideas and arguments clearly;
- Organize the arguments into an organic and coherent essay;
- Do oral presentation in precise ways.

3. Course Schedule

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Tutorial
1	6/1	Course Introduction	
2	13/1	Generating Research Questions and Thesis	Grouping
3	20/1	Evidence, Arguments, and Religious Contents	
4	27/1	Reading Academic Article and Writing Literature Review	
5	3/2	<i>No Class – Lunar New Year Vacation</i>	
6	10/2	Different Approaches to Writing in Religious Studies (1): Textual Approach	
7	17/2	Different Approaches to Writing in Religious Studies (2): Historical Approach	
8	24/2	Different Approaches to Writing in Religious Studies (3): Comparative Approach	Presentation 1
9	3/3	<i>No Class – Reading Week</i>	
10	10/3	Different Approaches to Writing in Religious Studies (4): Field Work Study & Interview	Presentation 2
11	17/3	Problem Solving Skills	Presentation 3
12	24/3	Review the Progress of Group Presentation and Final Group Paper	Presentation 4
13	31/3	Group Presentation 1	
14	7/4	Group Presentation 2	
15	14/4	Review the Progress of Final Group Paper	

4. Learning activities

Lecture		Class Discussion		Presentation		Course Readings		Final Paper	
In class	Out class	In class	Out class	In class	Out class	In class	Out class	In class	Out class
2 hrs/w		0.5hr/w		1 hr/w			2 hrs/w		10 hrs
M		M		M			M		M

M: Mandatory activity in the course

5. Assessment scheme

Task	Percentage
Attendance	10%
Participation and Class/Tutorial Discussions	10%
Tutorial Presentation	15%
Group Presentation	25%
Final Group Paper	40%

Tutorial Presentation:

- All students are divided into 4 groups, and each group need to present an academic article (either in Chinese or English) corresponding to the following research approaches:
 1. Textual approach
 2. Historical approach
 3. Comparative approach
 4. Field work study
- The students should analyze the content of the article and comment on the application of specific research approach.
- 30 minutes for presentation; 15 minutes for discussion.
- All presentation scores are calculated on a group basis.

Group Presentation:

- All students are divided into 4 groups, and each group need to present their proposal of final group paper.
- 30 minutes for presentation; 15 minutes for discussion.
- Presenters are encouraged to utilize visual aids (e.g., hand-outs, PowerPoint©), and to make their presentations understandable to non-specialists.
- All presentation scores are calculated on a group basis.

Final Group Paper:

- The paper should be about 5000 words (either in Chinese or English), dealing with a defined scholarly question and topic.
- The paper should demonstrate appropriate research skills, including the abilities to collect information, to exercise critical judgment, and to present the arguments in a clear and organized manner.
- Papers should be handed in via VeriGuide and submit on Blackboard by **23:59 on 27/4 (Sunday), 2025. Delayed submission of assignment without reasonable explanation may result in grade deduction.**

6. Suggested Readings

Michael Stausberg, Steven Engler, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*. London: Routledge, 2011.

Northey, Margot. *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Religious Studies*. [Third Edition]. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Scott G. Brown, *A Guide to Writing Academic Essays in Religious Studies*. London: Continuum, 2008.

Turabian, Kate L.. *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*. [Fifth Edition]. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.

7. Feedback for evaluation

End-of-term university course evaluation will be conducted in class. Students' comments and feedback on the course through e-mails or personal meeting with the instructor are always welcomed.

8. A Facility for Posting Course Announcements

Related course materials are delivered via the platform "BLACKBOARD"
(<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/eLearning/>)

9. Academic honesty and plagiarism

Students must submit their papers via VeriGuide. Relevant information on academic honesty and plagiarism can be allocated at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>