

**Religion and the Modern World Syllabus – Spring 2010**  
**01/20/10-05/14/10**

**REL 205, Section 39302**  
**MW 5:45-7:00; Room BP2N**

**Instructor: Matthew Wenzlau**

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**Required Text:**

Bruce, Steve. *Religion in the Modern World (from Cathedrals to Cults)*.

**Suggested Text:**

Seife, Charles. *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea*.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic history and significant themes of the Church and its development in the Modern World. In addition to lectures, we will engage in discussion, formulate group activities and watch films/documentaries. Not only are the homework assignments a required part of the reading assignments, but reading the assigned materials will greatly enhance your ability to grasp the concepts.

**Course Outline:**

Introduction/the Evolution of Religion

Introduction, Foundations of Modernity to the Structuring of Religion (pp 1-69)

Religion and Societal Change

Religion Ethnicity and Social Change (pp 97)

America to Present

America and God to Modern Ages (pp 129-230)

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is required and roll will be taken. Attendance is taken via the class sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their name is on the roll. **Only five (5) unexcused absences will be allowed for the semester**, the sixth could be grounds for being dropped for the course or lead to grade reduction. Do not expect that you will be automatically dropped; however, if you wish to withdraw from the course, either do so personally or request that the professor withdraw you.

**Grading:**

There will be two (2) papers for this course; a midterm paper and a final term paper. The mid-term will occur after module three and the final exam will cover modules four through nine. There are homework/team assignments that will be due every Monday based on the Readings due for that week. The homework assignments, and especially the lectures, are a good indication for the material on your term papers. In addition, the homework will be graded and included in your overall course grade. Finally, you will be assigned to a small

group, which will be responsible for making a presentation to the class at the end of the semester.

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Mid Term Paper (7 Pages)</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Final Term Paper (10 Pages)</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Group Project Presentation (PowerPoint)</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Home Work Team Assignments</b>	<b>100 points (POINTS MAY VARY)</b>
<b>Participation Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>500</u></b>

<b>A</b>	<b>450 - 500</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>400 - 449</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>350 - 399</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>300 - 349</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>299 point or less</b>

**Homework & Term Papers:**

Homework will be graded on correctness/completeness of answers, clarity of presentation, and timeliness. Homework papers may be accepted late, but points will be drastically reduced. In general, the most successful homeworks are those, which are detailed and well thought, and using solid references from our materials. Term Papers will need to be typewritten and following the MLA format. The most successful papers will encapsulate our class discussions and materials and will utilize supporting references to strengthen the theme of your paper. Spelling, Grammar, and Clarity will contribute to the average of your score.

**Special Needs:**

If any of you have special needs owing to a disability, please contact me with the proper documentation that details whatever accommodations you require.

**Make-Up Policy:**

The make-up of any missed work, whether assignments, tests or the presentation will be solely at the discretion of the instructor. **Assignments are due on the scheduled day and will not be accepted late.** *If you know that you are going to be absent it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the homework assignment is received the by instructor on the due date.*

**MCC Early Alert Program (EARS)**

Mesa Community College is committed to the success of all our students. Numerous campus support services are available throughout your academic journey to assist you in achieving your educational goals. MCC has adopted an Early Alert Referral System (EARS) as part of a student success initiative to aid students in their educational pursuits. Faculty and Staff participate by alerting and referring students to campus services for added support. Students may receive a follow up call from various campus services as a result of being referred to EARS. Students are encouraged to participate, but these services are optional. Early Alert Web Page with Campus Resource Information can be located at: <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/ears> or locate the "Early Alert" selection at the "mymcc" link from MCC's home page.

**NOTE:**

You are encouraged to drop by my office, or call/email me, to talk about the course. If you are unable to come to my office during my office hours, please feel free to set up an appointment. I expect that we'll have a great learning experience this semester. However, please note that if you have any problems or concerns about this course, MCC policy states that you must try to work the problem out with me first – the Chair cannot get involved until that point. Also, the Chair cannot change your grade on any assignment or for the course!

## Homework Assignments/Calendar Rev. 01/17/10

(Unless noted or on a Holiday, the Homework Assignments are due on first day of class for the week).

1. **WEEK ONE – Syllabus/Overview/Chapter 1** **1/20/10**
2. *Week Two – Chapter 1* Due Date 1/25/10
3. *Week Three – Chapter 2* Due Date 2/01/10
4. *Week Four – Chapter 3 (pp. 26-44)* Due Date 2/08/10
5. *Week Five – CLASS MOVIE – “Contact”* 2/15/10
6. *Week Six – Chapter 3 Cont. (pp. 45-62)* Due Date 2/22/10
7. **Week Seven – CLASS MIDTERM PAPER DUE; Wednesday, March 3, 2010**
8. *Week Eight – Chapter 4* Due Date 3/08/10
9. **Week Nine - (SPRING BREAK 3/15/10– 3/21/10 – NO CLASS 3/15/10-3/21/10)**
10. *Week Ten – Chapter 5* Due Date 3/22/10
11. *Week Eleven- Chapter 6 (pp. 129-147)* Due Date 3/29/10
12. **WEEK TWELVE – CLASS MOVIE – “The Case For Christ” vs. “Religulous”**  
4/05/10
13. *Week Thirteen – Chapter 6 Cont (pp. 147-168)* Due Date 4/12/10
14. *Week Fourteen – Chapter 7* Due Date 4/19/10
15. *Week Fifteen – Chapter 8* Due Date 4/26/10
16. *Week Sixteen – Chapter 9* Due Date 5/03/10
17. **WEEK SEVENTEEN - CLASS FINAL PAPER DUE; Wednesday, May 12, 2010**