



Loyola
HIGH SCHOOL

Religious and Ethical Studies (Cycle Two, Year Three)

Periods Per Cycle: 4 full periods

Instructors: Mr. Diachyshyn (diachyshynm@loyola.ca)

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Required Materials

- Loose leaf or a notebook (always ensure that there is some in your binder) for class lectures/discussions
- iPad to access Moodle and various class readings

Resources (Class Sets Provided by the Individual Teachers)

- *Exploring the Religions of our World* by Nancy Clemmons
- *Living Justice and Peace; Catholic Social Teaching in Practice* by J. Windley-Daoust
- Numerous readings, handouts and worksheets will be posted on Moodle during the term

Course Description and Goals

“God is dead,” proclaimed the German philosopher Nietzsche at the end of the 19th century. As a result, ‘experts’ believed, as human society progressed, that the superstitions of religious belief would be a thing of the past. However, faith has not disappeared. It is important for Loyola students to understand the role religion plays in our society given the complexity of the world today. By examining various sacred stories, rituals and philosophies from other religious traditions, we can then learn to tolerate religious diversity while still remaining faithful to the Catholic heritage.

During the first half of the course, the justice dimension of faith will be examined by exposing students to the social teachings of the Catholic Church and their application to contemporary social issues such as climate change, human trafficking, discrimination, economic and cultural globalization, worker rights and civic responsibilities. It will contrast the Church’s response with secular responses and those of other concerned parties.

During the second half of the course, students will

- (a) examine the teachings and practices of Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist traditions
- (b) read texts about the existence of God, the nature of religion, the meaning of life, the reality of good and evil, love and suffering
- (c) compare and contrast the major foundations of some world religions with those of Catholicism

Course Evaluation

This is a yearlong course with exams that will be written during the Christmas and June Exam periods. Term work will include homework, assignments, tests, groups project and a participation grade.

TERM ONE (20% of the year)

TERM TWO (20% of the year)

TERM THREE (60% of the year)

Teacher Expectations

Students who fail to submit an assignment because of an appointment or prior commitment (school-sponsored or otherwise) will be automatically **docked 10%**, with the assignment expected to be handed in within 24 hours. If the assignment is not handed in within 24 hours, a 20% penalty will be assessed, then 30% and finally the grade will be zero on the fourth day.

A student who is ill on the day a test is scheduled or an assignment is due will be required to write the test or submit the assignment *the day of his return to school, even if class is not scheduled to meet on that day*. It is always the student's responsibility to re-schedule his missed test with the instructor, whether in person or via email.

All other expectations vary according to each individual teacher. Please consult the course outline posted on each instructor's Moodle page.

*** Please note: Respect is key for the success of this course. Many of the topics covered are of a sensitive nature. Students must therefore exercise good judgment at all times. Failure to do so will reflect on their final grade.

