

## EarthDiverse: 2019 Term 3 Class Info & Registration Form

- **DISCOVERING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY** series:

*Exploring the diverse belief traditions contributing to New Zealand society*

Learn about the history, development and contemporary practice of the world's major religions. Each Term has a different focus and covers different material. The first two Terms of this series focus on the history and development of each of the world's main faith and belief traditions, while the second two Terms focus on Selected Topics in Contemporary Belief & Practice. In the first half of the series, we begin with the Western & Eastern Traditions. In the second half, we view a different topic each week, discussing how each religion approaches that particular topic. Structuring discussions in this way allows us to focus on the similarities between the world religions rather than on any perceived differences. The second half of this series involves a critical exploration of lifecycle rituals and beliefs, from birth to death, food and clothing preferences, festivals and other activities associated with what religions do.

**1: "History and Development of the Western Religious Traditions"**

This eight-week course begins with "An Evolutionary History of Religion and Religious Behaviour" which encompasses the dawn of early human spirituality through to the emergence of polytheism and the Neolithic Revolution. Week 2 focuses on the rise of monotheism in Ancient Mesopotamia (including Zoroastrianism). In subsequent weeks, we will explore the history and development of the Western religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**2: "History and Development of the Eastern Religious Traditions"**

In this Term, we look at the rise of the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Eastern religious traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism. Additional Eastern belief traditions are discussed in the "Other 'Isms'" course in the "Contemporary Issues in Religion" series.

**3: "Contemporary Practice: Selected Topics 1"**

*Week 1: Image and Iconography; Week 2: Sacred Time: Cosmology & Creation; Week 3: Sacred Time: Calendars, Holy Days & Festivals; Week 4: Sacred Spaces; Week 5: Prayer and Worship; Week 6: Food and Ritual; Week 7: Sacred Clothing; and Week 8: Sacred Music.*

**4: "Contemporary Practice: Selected Topics 2"**

*Week 1: Rites of Passage: Birth and Coming of Age Ceremonies; Week 2: Rites of Passage: Marriage; Week 3: Asceticism, Monasticism and Renunciation; Week 4: Sacred Journeys and Pilgrimage; Week 5: Going Beyond: Esoteric Traditions & Mystical Experiences; Week 6: Ethical Ideologies; Week 7: Rites of Passage: Death and Bereavement; Week 8: Interfaith dialogue.*

- **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN RELIGION** series:

*This stream focuses on special topics and will address different issues/topics each Term.*

Future Term classes are currently in development and may focus on Sacred Texts, Esoteric Traditions and Mystical Experiences, Religion and Film, Faith & Feminism, and Religion & Art. Stay tuned for new class offerings!

**1: "Religious Fundamentalism, Extremism and Terrorism"**

This eight-week course involves a detailed study of the history, context and contemporary issues around religious fundamentalism, extremism and terrorism in all of the world's main faith and belief traditions. We'll explore the differences between these terms and view, in detail, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh fundamentalism and extremism.

**2: "Religion & Nonviolence"**

This six-week course picks up where the Term 1 class on "Religious Fundamentalism" left off, focusing on peaceful forms of religious practice, discussing key issues like the Jain concept of *ahimsa*, the Hindu concept of *satyāgraha*, and the Jewish notion of *Tikkun Olam*, and key figures such as Mahātmā Gāndhī, Martin Luther King, Khān Abdul Ghaffār Khān, and others.

### **3: “Other ‘Isms”**

This Term examines a wider variety of religions and belief systems, including: the Indian traditions of Sikhism and Jainism, the Chinese religious traditions (Folk religion, Taoism, Confucianism, and Chinese Buddhism), followed by an exploration of the Japanese religious traditions (Shinto, Shingon, Tendai, Nichiren and Zen Buddhism), the Bahá’í Faith, and the moral and ethical secular ideologies of Atheism, Agnosticism, Rationalism and Humanism.

### **4: “New Religious Movements”**

This Term covers a wide variety of what are typically titled “new religious movements,” religious or spiritual movements often on the periphery of the world’s major faith and belief traditions. During the course of the 8-week term, we’ll look at a wide range of both mainstream traditions and a smattering of smaller cults and sects.

## **SOME BRIEF NOTES ON OUR CLASS OFFERINGS:**

- All classes are taught from an objective point of view. These are classes *about* religion and religious behavior, taught from an anthropological point of view, and are designed for participants to get a greater understanding of the depth and scope of the diversity that exists within the world’s various faith and belief traditions.
- Detailed Syllabi are available at the start of each Term.
- Any Term can be taken independently of the others, and there are no prerequisites for any of the Term courses.
- All classes encourage questions and group discussion. There are *no* assignments, required readings, quizzes, tests or exams. PDF copies of each class presentation are emailed to all participants the next day so that you are free to focus on class content rather than taking notes. You are most welcome to come, sit back, relax, take part in and enjoy the discussions!
- Course fees include a short tea / coffee / snack break in the middle of each session.
- There are no refunds for missed classes.
- Guests of registered participants are welcome to attend a single class at no charge.
- Certificates of Completion for any particular Term or for an entire Series of classes are available for Professional Development purposes upon request at the end of each Term or Series.

## **LECTURER:**

All classes are taught by Todd Nachowitz, PhD. Todd has been a part-time lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Waikato where he taught introductory courses on Comparative Religion; Religious Fundamentalism, Extremism and Terrorism; Religion in Secular Society; and Islam. Todd has a Masters Degree in Development Anthropology from Syracuse University in upstate New York (1991) and a PhD from the University of Waikato (2015) in Political Science and Public Policy where he worked on issues of diversity governance. Prior to settling in New Zealand in 1995, Todd lived and worked in the United States, India, Pakistan and Nepal. He spent 11 years in South Asia as the Academic Director of university study-abroad programmes in Varanasi, India (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Lahore, Pakistan (University of California-Berkeley); and Kathmandu, Nepal (School for International Training) that focused on language, culture and religion. Todd speaks Hindi and Urdu, and is a specialist in comparative world religions and the history, religions, languages and cultures of South Asia. Todd’s most recent research and publications involve religious diversity, the Indian diaspora, and the history and development of multiculturalism in New Zealand. He is a founding member of the Religious Diversity Centre, based in Auckland, and is a member of the Executive Committees of both the Waikato Jewish Association and the Waikato Interfaith Council.

*For more information on these and other programmes, please email <info@earthdiverse.org.nz>.*

## EarthDiverse: 2019 TERM 3 COST & REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

The following Term 3 classes are available for online registration:

### HAMILTON:

[ ] *'Discovering Religious Diversity' series: "Contemporary Belief & Practice: Selected Topics 1"*

- class meets weekly on Thursday mornings during Term 3 from 10:00am-12:30pm (8 sessions)
- classes begin on Thursday 1 August and run through Thursday 19 September 2019
- classes meet at Artmakers, Norris Ward Park Arts Centre, 2 Seddon Road, Hamilton
- Cost per person per term: Waged: \$104; Unwaged/Students/Seniors: \$84

[ ] *'Contemporary Issues in Religion' series: "Other 'Isms'"*

- class meets weekly on Thursday evenings during Term 3 from 6:00-8:30pm (8 sessions)
- classes begin on Thursday 1 August and run through Thursday 19 September 2019
- classes meet at Artmakers, Norris Ward Park Arts Centre, 2 Seddon Road, Hamilton
- Cost per person per term: Waged: \$104; Unwaged/Students/Seniors: \$84

### TE AWAMUTU:

[ ] *'Discovering Religious Diversity' series: "History & Development: Western Religions 1"*

- class meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays during school terms, 6:30pm-8:30pm (4 sessions)
- Term 3 classes meet on Wednesdays on 7 August, 21 August, 4 September and 18 September
- Class location: St John's Anglican Church, 162 Arawata St, Te Awamutu
- Cost per person per term: Waged: \$54; Unwaged/Students/Seniors: \$44

### TAURANGA:

[ ] *'Contemporary Issues in Religion' series: "Religious Fundamentalism, Extremism and Terrorism"*

- class meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30pm
- classes begin on Tuesday 30 July and run through Tuesday 17 September 2019
- classes meet at St George's Anglican Church, 1 Church St, Gate Pa, Tauranga
- Cost per person per term: Waged: \$104; Unwaged/Students/Seniors: \$84

PLEASE NOTE: all costs above include a per person per term \$4 online registration fee)

### TO REGISTER:

1. Go to: <[www.earthdiverse.org.nz/registration](http://www.earthdiverse.org.nz/registration)>.
2. Select the location (Hamilton, Te Awamutu or Tauranga) and class (or classes) you wish to register for.
3. Select either 'Waged' or 'Unwaged'.
4. Select the number of people you wish to register for.
5. Follow the online instructions, fill in your payment details and click "Submit".
6. A receipt will be generated for you automatically.