



Series 1 - 2017

Course title: **Religions and their Impact in the World Today**

Dates: **Wednesdays, 8 March - 12 April 2017**

Time: **10:00am - 12 noon**

Venue: **Otago Golf Club
125 Balmacewen Road, Dunedin**

(Enrolments for this course will be limited to **150**)

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Website:
u3adunedin.org.nz

Course fee: \$45. Tea and coffee provided.

Course Convenor: Lester Flockton

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Phone: 455 1816

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Dr Lester Flockton is also the Course Developer

If you would like to apply for more than one course, please rank your choices. If you enrol via our website **please complete payment of the appropriate fees EITHER by internet banking (include Membership No. in Reference box), OR by cheque (to: Programme Secretary, U3A Dunedin, PO Box 6491, North Dunedin 9059.)**

All applications must be received by **Friday 27 January 2017** and you will receive a response to your application by Friday 10 February 2017.

Please contact the Programme Convenor (courses@u3adunedin.org.nz) or the Secretary (mw.potter42@gmail.com, 453 4721) with any queries.

Postponements:

Check the website: u3adunedin.org.nz or listen to:

The Breeze 98.2 FM — Radio Dunedin 99.8 FM — MoreFM 97.4 FM

Please note: please no recording, photographing or videoing at any session in any of the courses.

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

Religions and their Impact in the World Today

Much of contemporary life, no matter where in the World, is influenced one way or another by religious histories, beliefs and practices. Rich insights into this inescapable reality are offered by members of the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Otago.

8 March Hinduism in Indian Politics

India's constitution declares it to be a secular republic, but religion has long played a vital part in its political life. In pre-colonial times, kings and priests reinforced each other's status. Mughal and British dominance re-shaped this relationship but did not entirely displace religion from the political sphere. India's economic liberalisation since the 1990s has been accompanied by a powerful resurgence of religion as source of political power, and a factor in some of India's most intractable problems like Kashmir and continuing caste discrimination.

-Dr Will Sweetman

15 March Christianity, Mythology and Violence

What contribution can a better understanding of violence offer for an understanding of Christianity, and what insights can Christian faith offer on the prevalence of violence in contemporary society? This session will explore the complex relationship of violence, mythology and Christian faith in the work of biblical scholar Walter Wink and cultural historian Rene Girard.

-Professor David Tombs, Director, Centre for Theology & Public Issues

22 March Religion and Prejudice in New Zealand

Scholars have proposed that early Christian foundations have motivated the high levels of tolerance found in New Zealand. However, most studies find that religiously affiliated people tend to be more prejudiced and less tolerant than those non-religiously affiliated. Using a very large dataset (~14,000) drawn from people enrolled in the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study, this talk will examine the complex relationships between religion, prejudice and tolerance in contemporary New Zealand.

-Dr John Shaver

29 March Global Rastafarianism

The first half of this talk will look at Garveyism, and the Pan-African roots of Rastafarianism, and the second half will consider the arrival of Rastafarianism in New Zealand during the 1970s.

-Dr Elizabeth Guthrie

5 April Islam and Revivalism

Islam is most visible today in the form of its revivalist ('fundamentalist') movements, of which the so-called 'Islamic State' in Iraq and Syria is an extreme example. Where have these movements come from and why are they so influential? Their roots, I shall argue, are indigenous, reflecting aspects of traditional Muslim thought. But their current resurgence is a response to two aspects of the modern age: the liberalism of Western societies and the political and military interaction of Western powers with the Muslim world.

-Dr Greg Dawes

12 April Current Trends in Christian Spirituality

In recent years Christians have discovered (or re-discovered) spiritual practices such as Sabbath keeping, fasting, simplicity, and contemplative forms of prayer and engagement with the Bible. We'll explore these practices in the light of current societal trends, in some cases influenced by other religions, including mindfulness, thankfulness and simplicity/decluttering.

-Dr Lynne Baab