



**University
of Victoria**

Course Outline (Summer 2026)

GEOG 391 (A02): Topics in Geography — Geography and Sacred Space

On-Campus Classes: May 20, June 10, June 24 — 1:00-3:50 PM, Building (TBA)

Instructor: Dr. Todd Klaiman

Office: Sedgewick Vandekerkhove Wing B102d

Contact: toddklaiman@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM, virtually by appointment (Zoom)

Note on Course Delivery: This is a **MIXED-MODE** course. Most course activities will take place on Brightspace asynchronously, including lectures, readings, and quizzes. However, there will be three mandatory on-campus classes (May 20, June 10, June 24) that will involve participation in group activities and completion of individual writing assignments.

Course Description:

This course explores the global geographies of religion—pilgrimage routes, ritual landscapes, sacred ecologies, and the migrations that shape religious traditions around the world. It follows key themes and emerging approaches to consider how religious beliefs and practices shape cultural landscapes, organize space, and influence social, economic, and political life across time and place.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites: Consult department for details.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain significant historical stages in the geographical study of religion.
- Analyze how religious beliefs, practices, and institutions shape cultural landscapes and produce sacred spaces across diverse geographical contexts.
- Compare the ways religious traditions interact with social, political, economic, and environmental processes across different regions and historical periods.
- Critically assess contemporary issues related to religion and space, including contested sacred sites, heritage preservation, environmental stewardship, and the politics of place-making.
- Articulate ideas clearly and accurately orally and in writing.

Textbook and Course Materials:

No course textbooks. All materials will be posted on Brightspace or shared in class.

Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.

Assessments and Weighting:

Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Writing Assignments	60%

Participation (20%): Attendance and Participation in on-campus classes that will take place on **May 20, June 10, and June 24**. Your **attendance in these classes is mandatory**. Participation in class activities on these days will contribute to your participation grade.

Online Quizzes (20%): Complete quizzes when directed. **Quizzes will consist of 6-8 multiple-choice and true-false questions**. The **quizzes will allow TWO attempts (scores will be averaged)** and they **will be timed (approx. 6-8 minutes)**, so please make sure that you are ready before you begin. The quizzes will **test your recall and understanding of the assigned weekly reading materials** (available on Brightspace).

On-Campus Writing Assignments (60%): These assignments are designed to promote **writing as a form of learning** rather than writing as a form of demonstrating knowledge retention. They will be **based on weekly readings and recorded lectures** (available on Brightspace). They will be **completed during each of the three on-campus classes** (May 20, June 10, and June 24).

Grading (as per Academic Calendar):

A+	90-100	B+	77-79	C+	65-69	F	0-49
A	85-89	B	73-76	C	60-64		
A-	80-84	B-	70-72	D	50-59		

Weekly topics

Geography and Religion – Directions and Scope of the Fields
Religion in Human and Social Contexts
Spatial Patterns of the Development and Distribution of Religions
Processes and Patterns of the Spread of Religious Traditions
Migration and the Transformation of Religion
Religion and Landscape
Sacred Space and Pilgrimage

Religious Ecology

* A detailed schedule of topics and readings will be available online in Brightspace.

Brightspace

We will have a Brightspace page for the course, where you can find a schedule, complete weekly quizzes, and download the readings for each week. Additionally, there will be an “**Ask the Professor**” section where you can post questions to me that you think your classmates will benefit from viewing. There will also be an “**Ask a Classmate**” section where you can post questions to the class. Please note that these sections are not appropriate for questions about your grades, absences, accommodations, etc. In those situations, an e-mail is the best way to contact me.

Geography Department Information

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

Course Policies:

Late submissions will be given a grade of 0 (unless you provide a medical certificate indicating the date of the missed assignment). Please work ahead to ensure that you do not miss handing in assignments.

Academic Integrity

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

- **Policy on Academic Integrity:**
web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html.

Other Concerns

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations uvic.ca/services/cal/. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.*
uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php