

# **RLG101 Lecture 3: Enchantment/Disenchantment: Thinking about Religion in a Secular(izing) World**

Professor Khalidah Ali  
khalidah.ali@mail.utoronto.ca  
Office: MN4244  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3pm



## **"Religious Food Guidance" - Michel Desjardins**

1. Permanent food restrictions
2. Temporary food restrictions
3. Food offerings
4. Charity
5. Special Occasions

# Assignment Summary

Assignment	Due Date	Total Weight (% of final grade)
Online Ethics Course	Sept 19th, 2023	2%
The Interview Information Survey	Oct 3rd, 2023	2%
The Research Assignment	Oct 24th, 2023	10%
The Interview Consent Form	Nov 21st, 2023	1%
The Interview Recording	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Transcript	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Report	Nov 30th, 2023	17%

# The Ethics Course

## **Complete the TCPS 2: Course on Research Ethics**

Complete the TCPS 2: Course on Research Ethics and submit the Certificate of Completion. This step is worth 2% of your final grade and is due September 19th, 2023.





# The Interviewee

**Choose your interviewee wisely!**

- Able to give you the time you need for the interview
- Open to discussing their religious traditions
- Reliable in terms of being able to meet for your interview at the agreed upon date and time
- Willing to give their consent for the interview to be used for the purposes of this assignment

# Formal Requirements for Choosing an Interviewee

- Must be 18+ years of age (i.e., legally an adult)
- Should self-identify as belonging to a different religious tradition than you practice (or your family practices)
- Cannot be students in RLG101H
- Should have at least some level of commitment to their religion
- Should not be "experts" in their religion (e.g., Imams, priests, religion professors, etc.)



## Religious Traditions

- Bahá'í
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Neo-Paganism
- Shinto
- Sikhism
- Taoism
- Wicca
- Zoroastrianism
- Indigenous Traditions (please consult me on this)
- Please ask permission for religions not on this list

# Interview Information Survey - available on Quercus

The Interview Information Survey is worth 2% of your final course grade and is due October 3rd, 2023.







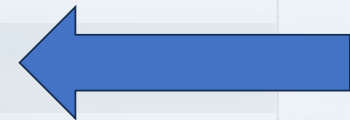
# The Research Assignment

**Conduct preliminary research on the religion you plan to study**

Conduct preliminary research on the religion you plan to study. Respond to the prompts about your findings and develop three original interview questions. This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade and is due on October 24th, 2023.

# Assignment Summary

Assignment	Due Date	Total Weight (% of final grade)
Online Ethics Course	Sept 19th, 2023	2%
The Interview Information Survey	Oct 3rd, 2023	2%
The Research Assignment	Oct 24th, 2023	10%
The Interview Consent Form	Nov 21st, 2023	1%
The Interview Recording	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Transcript	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Report	Nov 30th, 2023	17%





## Conducting the Interview + Consent Form

- Must have interviewee sign consent form
- Must record interview (audio only)
- Must be **at least 15 mins**, but aim for 30 mins

The Consent Form is worth 1% of your final grade and is due November 21st, 2023

## Recording and Transcript

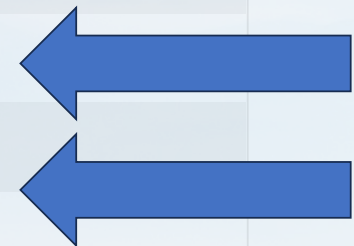
- Submit an interview recording using MyMedia (audio only)
- Recording must be 15 mins from start of the first question to end of the last question
- Submit transcription of interview

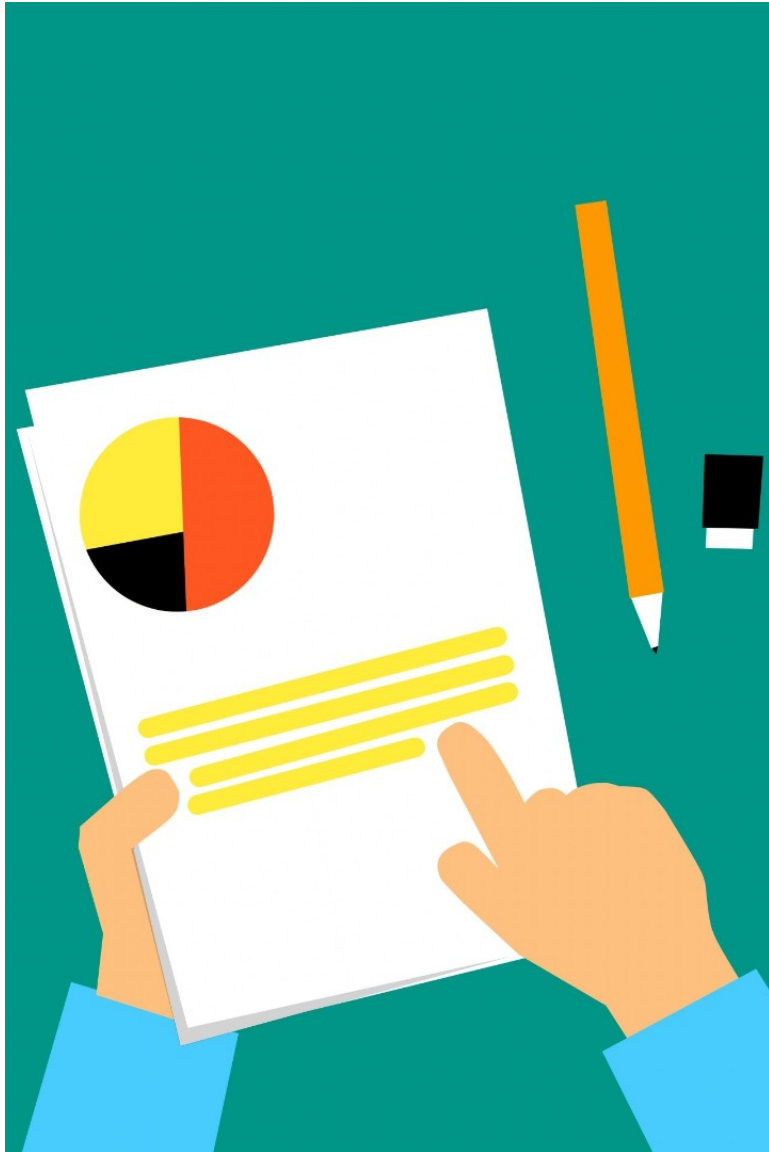
The Recording is worth 2% and the Transcript is worth 2% of your final grade.  
They are both due on November 21st, 2023.



# Assignment Summary

Assignment	Due Date	Total Weight (% of final grade)
Online Ethics Course	Sept 19th, 2023	2%
The Interview Information Survey	Oct 3rd, 2023	2%
The Research Assignment	Oct 24th, 2023	10%
The Interview Consent Form	Nov 21st, 2023	1%
The Interview Recording	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Transcript	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Report	Nov 30th, 2023	17%





# The Interview Report

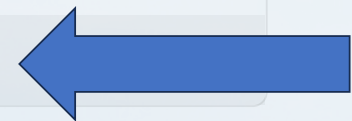
## **Write a formal report on your interview findings**

Write a formal report on your interview findings. Respond to specific questions and prompts to reflect on the interview, describe your findings, and interpret your interviewee's food traditions. Structure your report with coherent paragraphs, proper grammar and punctuation, and include formal citations.

The Interview Report is worth 17% of your final course grade and is due on November 30th.

# Assignment Summary

Assignment	Due Date	Total Weight (% of final grade)
Online Ethics Course	Sept 19th, 2023	2%
The Interview Information Survey	Oct 3rd, 2023	2%
The Research Assignment	Oct 24th, 2023	10%
The Interview Consent Form	Nov 21st, 2023	1%
The Interview Recording	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Transcript	Nov 21st, 2023	2%
The Interview Report	Nov 30th, 2023	17%



# The Secularization Thesis

The secularization thesis is a sociological hypothesis that was popularized in the mid-20th century and suggests that as societies modernize and advance technologically, religious beliefs, practices, and institutions will decline in importance.





1

## **Proposes that religion is declining**

Religions will decrease in importance and influence

2

## **Discusses the causes of secularization**

Various factors in modern society ( including science, technology, education, urbanization, individualism) contribute to decline of religion

3

## **Views secularization as a global trend**

Will affect societies across the world as they modernize



## The Enchanted World

The concept of the "enchanted world" refers to a worldview or perspective in which the natural and supernatural realms are intertwined, and mystical or magical beliefs hold significant sway.

## Max Weber (1864-1920)



Max Weber was a German sociologist, philosopher, and economist; considered one of the founding figures of modern sociology.

Made contributions to the understanding of social theory, bureaucracy, rationalization, and the relationship between religion and capitalism.

Wrote the essay "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" (1905)

Work on "disenchantment" contributed to the secularization thesis





# **Disenchantment in the Modern World**

This process is often associated with the rise of rationalization and secularization, and the decline of traditional religious beliefs and practices.



**1**

### **Historical Context:**

19th century; industrialization, urbanization, spread of rational thought

**3**

### **Protestantism and Capitalism:**

Protestant values contributed to the rise of modern capitalism, as individuals sought to maximize their worldly success through disciplined, rational economic activity

**2**

### **Rationalization:**

Systematic application of reason, calculation, and efficiency to various aspects of human life, including religion, politics, and economics

**4**

### **"Iron cage of rationality":**

While rationalization and disenchantment brought many benefits, they also led to a sense of alienation and a loss of individual freedom

# Secularization vs. Disenchantment

Secularization: Decline of religion in society

Disenchantment: Replacement of mystical, magical, or religious worldviews with rational and scientific explanations

## **Critiques of Weber**

- **Overemphasis on rationalization**
  - **Eurocentrism**
  - **Historical Accuracy**
  - **Societal Diversity**
- **Neglect of Non-Christian Religions**
  - **Religion's Resilience**
  - **Evolutionary Assumptions**

# Further Critiques of the Secularization thesis

- World is more religiously diverse
- Rise in religious "unaffiliation"
- Some religions are growing
- Oversimplifies the relationship between modernization and religion





**Discussion: How is religion currently shaping  
our culture?**