

# RELS 255: RESEARCH METHODS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

*Queen's University School of Religion*

Taught by: Professor Sharday Mosurinjohn

A "method" means "a way of doing something." In this course you will learn ways to take a project from idea to finished product (e.g. how to design a study, get the data, do the analysis, and package it in different forms such as essay, poster, presentation, or podcast, to share with your readers and listeners). Our main reading material will be Ann Taves' *Religious Experience Reconsidered: A Building-Block Approach to the Study of Religion and Other Special Things* (2009; available online). Using this and some other readings of classic primary texts, you will complete reading log assignments throughout the course of the semester. Your final project can take the form of a paper, podcast, video, or another format you pitch to me. In it, you will apply the skills of literature searching, reading, and writing honed throughout this course to analyzing a "special experience" of your own choosing. The purpose of these activities is to equip you with reading, searching, writing, and editing skills that will make you more efficient, effective, and creative in the assignments in your other courses.

## Weekly Schedule

Each week I will give you readings and a short (10-15 min) narrated presentation. All reading material for the course will be provided. From time to time you will get to do a small group activity through onQ (asynchronously, at your own pace). Although the class has scheduled timeslots, each week we will only meet "live" using Zoom for an optional tutorial-style session for questions and answers about the course material. The course will be graded based on: several reading logs, the final project, and participation in the occasional non-live OnQ activities.

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## Time Commitment per Week

8 hours

Prerequisite

Level 2

Required Textbook/Materials

No