

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RELS 363 L01 – COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION – FALL 2011**

Instructor: Dr. K. U. Froese

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Office / Hours: SS 1328 Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm

Class time: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Plato, *The Republic*

Augustine, *The Essential Augustine*

*The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*

*Daodejing: A Philosophical Translation*

Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Bare Reason*

Other readings will be made available by the instructor.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

This course examines some fundamental philosophical and religious questions from a variety of perspectives, drawing upon Western and Eastern traditions. The course is not intended as a survey of these systems of thought, but rather aims to encourage cross-cultural comparisons of metaphysical, ethical, and religious ideas.

Emphasis will be placed on developing analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to engage with these texts in order to reflect on some of the prevailing assumptions of contemporary societies.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Mid-term exam	October 20	40%*
In-class exam	December 6	10%*
Final paper (8-10 pages)	due in class December 1	50%

*\*You may choose to count the exam for which you receive the highest grade for 40% and the other midterm for 10%. In other words, if your grade for the final in-class exam is higher than that of the midterm, you may count that for 40%.*

Paper topics will be distributed in class and will require students to engage in a cross-cultural comparison by drawing on Western and Eastern works. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% a day. The paper can be handed in at any time during the semester. The December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline allows those students writing on works discussed later in the semester to attend the lectures on these books before handing in their paper. Having other assignments and tests due at this time will not be sufficient reason for extension. You have the option of handing the paper in earlier and choosing a topic that allows you to do so. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to try to borrow notes from another student. I will not provide lecture notes for those who missed class.

The in-class exams **MUST** be written on the date specified. Make-up tests will only be granted under *exceptional* circumstances and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation.

*\*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.*

## GRADING

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

*Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.*

## ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

## GNOSIS

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

## FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Plato's Republic** Sept. 13-27

Required reading: *Republic* Books I-IV, VI-VII

**The Bhagavad-Gita** Sept. 29-Oct. 6

Required readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13-15

**Augustine** Oct. 11-25

Required Readings: *Confessions: (on blackboard)* Book I i-xi Book II ii, iv-vi.

*The Essential Augustine* IV pp. 127-131, VIII, IX, X

**Nagarjuna** Oct. 27-Nov. 1

Required readings: *Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way (on blackboard)* Books 1, 2, 24, 25

**Kant** Nov. 3-15

*Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason*

Required Readings: Piece I and Piece 2 Section 1 (pp. 17-85)

**Daodejing** Nov. 17-Dec. 1

(Complete)