

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**REVISED COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014**

**Course** RELS 200 L01 - Origin and Nature of Religious Worldviews  
**Time** MWF 11-11:50  
**Instructor** Irving Hexham  
**TA** Janet Clarke Bell  
**Office Hours** M. 12-1  
**Office** SS 538  
**E-mail** religion205@gmail.com  
**Telephone** 403-220-3280

**Required Text(s):**

Hexham, Irving. 2011. *Understanding World Religions: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan.

Other required in the form of academic articles in pdf format dealing with the theory of worldviews and specific religious worldviews will be posted on the course website. This can be found at:

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/courses.htm7>

**Optional Text(s):**

Various optional readings, including books in pdf format, will be posted on the course website.

**Course Description:**

The old course description found in the University of Calgary Calendar reads:

Readings (in English translation) from the classical literatures of middle Eastern and Asian religions. Introduction to the evolving mythological traditions from three geo-cultural centres (the middle East, India, and China) by examining recurring themes: cosmology; existential values and goals; destinies of humans, the world, and the cosmos.

The revised course description, which will be used in this section of the course, is:

This course addresses the issue of religious and secular worldviews beginning with a discussion of the theory and practice of worldview analysis. It illustrates specific religious worldviews using translated texts from major religious traditions in the context of the history and development of world religions. Recurring themes such as narrative frameworks, cosmology; existential values, goals; the destiny of humans, the world, and the cosmos, form a focus for this discussion.

This is a traditional university course that emphasizes reading and individual research by the student. It requires approximately 3 hours reading each week. Some weeks the reading will take slightly more than 3 hours, on other weeks it will be slightly less.

**Online elements for this course:**

The website [understandingworldreligions.com](http://understandingworldreligions.com) provides extensive supporting materials for this course. Importantly it also contains various required texts in pdf format found under the heading of "Courses"

As part of the course students are required to write and submit a mini-blog to be posted on the web at:

<http://uwreligions.wordpress.com/>

They are also expected to submit to the website three comments on mini-blogs by other students.

**Core Competencies:**

- a) Understand the term "worldview" and its growing use in discussions of religion and politics.
- b) Think critically about worldviews and what is implied for society.
- c) Gain an appreciation of the importance of using different academic methods and theories
- d) Be able to make informed judgments about religious and secular worldviews and the reliability of specific books and texts.

**Course Requirements:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>	<b>Required pass/fail</b>
<b>Blog work:</b>			
27 September	First mini-Blog	10%	
11 October	First blog comment	5%	
25 October	Second mini-Blog	10	
8 November	Second blog comment	5%	
29 November	Third mini-Blog	10%	
7 December	Third blog comment	5%	
Same day as mini-Blog is posted	Tweet about your mini-Blog	5%	
<b>Tests</b>			
17 October	First Test	25%	
21 November	Second Test	25%	

Details about the assignments, especially the mini-Blogs and comments, will be discussed in class during the first two weeks of term. They will also be posted to the course website.

**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, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

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

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

Students must take the test on the assigned day, have a valid medical note, or prove exceptional circumstances. Late papers are accepted, but will be automatically deducted 10% per day that they are overdue. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note or other external evidence of necessity; i.e., if you are allowed to write the test at a later date, the penalty will be a 10% reduction in your mark.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

**Attendance:** students are expected to attend *most* lectures and sign an attendance sheet on a regular basis.

**Class etiquette:** remember you are not the only student in the class. Please make every effort to arrive on time and not to leave before the class ends. You are expected to pay attention to the lecture and not distract other students.

**MP3 Computers and other devices:** while attending class the wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor are computers to be used for watching videos or playing computer games. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Recent evidence shows that students who use computers in class learn significantly less than those who write their own notes. Therefore, the use of computers in class will only be allowed for students who register their use of a computer and submit their course notes to the course email address immediately following the end of each class. If you use a computer in class then failure to submit your course notes on a weekly basis will result in the loss of marks up to 25% of the final grade.

**Recording of lectures:** For copyright reasons recording any part of any lectures in any form, including through a computer, is not permitted. Nor will the power point slides or lecture notes be posted on the web for the same reason. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. All of these restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

**Power Point Slides:** Due to copyright restrictions not all power point slides can be posted to the web. Those that do not include limited use materials will be posted to:

[http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/study\\_aids\\_uwr.html](http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/study_aids_uwr.html)

It is your responsibility to pay attention and write down any relevant information or your own comments. This must be done during lectures.

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available on the course website during the first week of term.

### **References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

### **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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. )If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and 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. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

### **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>.

### **Classics Student Society**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The 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 at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.