

World Religions - Western

Instructor: Dr. Ayse Tuzlak (ayse.tuzlak@ucalgary.ca)
Teaching Assistants: Ms. Hailey Haffey-Sherman and Ms. Helen Belcher
Class Meets: MWF 3:00 – 3:50
Office Hours: Mondays, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12:00 noon
and by appointment (e-mail to schedule)
Office: Social Science 1330, phone 220-3287

This course will explore the three great “Western” or “Abrahamic” religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will briefly consider each religion’s history, theology, law, ritual life, and cultural background. An understanding of these religions will help equip each student to think about religion in the modern world, and it will also open the way for future work in the humanities.

Core Competencies:

Students in this course will learn how to

- think critically about the complex religious environment in which they live
- read primary and secondary texts analytically and sensitively
- organize and interpret information from multiple sources
- appreciate the value of historical and comparative study of religion and culture

Please remember that the attainment of any learning endeavour requires that students commit time and energy to that endeavour. **Attend lectures, read assigned materials, and complete all course work.**

Required text: Willard G. Oxtoby, ed., *World Religions: Western Traditions*

Grading: In-class examinations **October 8** **30%**
November 5 **30%**
Registrar scheduled final examination **40%**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. At the end of the course, an overall letter grade will be assigned according to the following scheme.

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	49 or less

Please note that **no extra credit work will be offered**. N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 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.

Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

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

Schedule:

September 8 – 10: What is “Western religion”? Why study it?

September 13 – 17: The Ancient Mediterranean

Reading: Oxtoby, 10-31

September 20 – 24: The Early History of Judaism

Reading: Oxtoby, 32-64

Sept. 27 – Oct. 1: Jewish Law, Ritual, and Community

Reading: Oxtoby, 64-130

October 4 – 6: Judaism in the Modern World

Reading: Oxtoby, 130-150

October 8: FIRST EXAMINATION

October 11: (No classes. Happy Thanksgiving!)

October 13: CLASS MEETS IN TRI-FACULTIES LAB TODAY!

We are participating in a study :)

October 15: The Origins of Christianity

Reading: Oxtoby, 200-233

October 18 – 22: Late Antique and Medieval Christianity

Reading: Oxtoby, 233-269

October 25 – 29: The Protestant Reformation and its Consequences

Reading: Oxtoby, 269-300

November 1 - 3: Christianity in the Modern World

Reading: Oxtoby, 300-331

November 5: SECOND EXAMINATION

November 8 – 10: Early Muslim History

Reading: Oxtoby, 340-384

November 11 – 14: (No classes. Enjoy your Reading Week!)

November 15 – 19: Islamic Law, Philosophy, and Art

Reading: Oxtoby, 384-420

November 22 – 26: The Modern Muslim World

Reading: Oxtoby, 420-457

Nov. 29 – Dec. 3: New Religions in the West

Reading: Oxtoby, 462-491

December 6 – 9: Return to the question: What is Western Religion? Why study it?

FINAL EXAMINATION
(to be scheduled by the Registrar)