

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL 2013

RELS 201 L03 World Religions - Western

Course information: This is an online course that will be delivered through the Blackboard course management system.

Instructor: Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD cwcginn@ucalgary.ca (403) 220-5612 SS 1304

Online accessibility: Online office hours Monday 3:30-5:30 pm. Communication options will be announced on the Blackboard course management system.

Textbook: *World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials*. Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, editors. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010, Print and CD-ROM.

In addition to the textbook readings, students will be required to read select excerpts from sacred texts and online sources. Links will be posted on Blackboard.

Course description. This course will provide an introduction to the western faiths, focusing on Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, cultural context(s), leading figures, textual tradition, institutions, and doctrinal distinctives.

Course objectives. Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- approaches and obstacles to the study of religion
- key terms and concepts in the study of religion
- the historical context of the western religious traditions
- the chronological development of the western religious traditions
- key themes and teachings in the western religious traditions
- the authority of religious texts and approaches to interpretation
- the development of sectarianism within each of the western religious traditions
- current issues facing the western religious traditions

Course structure. The course will be composed of six modules:

- Module 1 Introduction to the Study of Religion (chapter one)
- Module 2 Concepts and Methods, Ancient Religions (chapter two)
- Module 3 Judaism (chapter three)
- Module 4 Christianity (chapter four)
- Module 5 Islam (chapter five)
- Module 6 Summary and Comparative Analysis of Western Religions

Course Schedule. A weekly course schedule will be posted on Blackboard. The course schedule will specify topics, readings, assignments, and tests.

Course Requirements:

➤ Orientation Quiz	Available September 11-16	5% Bonus
➤ Module 1 Test	Available 2:00-10:00 pm Wednesday September 25	Worth 10%
➤ Module 2 Test	Available 2:00-10:00 pm Wednesday October 2	Worth 10%
➤ Assignment #1	Due Friday September 27 by 10:00 pm	Worth 20%
➤ Module 3 Test	Available 2:00-10:00 pm Wednesday October 23	Worth 10%
➤ Module 4 Test	Available 2:00-10:00 pm Wednesday November 13	Worth 10%
➤ Module 5 Test	Available 2:00-10:00 pm Friday November 29	Worth 10%
➤ Assignment #2	Due Friday December 6 by 10:00 pm	Worth 30%

* There will be NO Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

Orientation Quiz. The Orientation Quiz, worth 5% bonus marks, will be made available September 11-16. The Orientation Quiz will test the student's knowledge of the Blackboard course management system as well as course information presented in the course outline, the course schedule, and the course layout on Blackboard. The deadline to submit the Orientation Quiz is Monday September 16 at 10:00 pm.

Assignments. Assignment #1, worth 20%, requires a 700-800 word descriptive essay on concepts and methods in the study of religion. A range of topics will be offered to choose from. Assignment #2, worth 30%, requires a 1000-1200 word descriptive or comparative essay on the western faiths. A range of topics will be offered to choose from. Assignments must be written in MLA or Chicago citation format. Late assignments will be deducted 15% per day. The assignments will be described in greater detail on the course Blackboard site, including information related to electronic submission.

Module Tests. All module tests are closed-book. Module tests will be available for an eight-hour period of time on the day assigned for the test. Module tests are timed, requiring students to complete the test within a specified time limit. If a student goes over the allotted time, they will not be "locked out" of the test. Rather, they will be permitted to complete the test but will be penalized 2% for every minute used over the time permitted. For example, if the time limit is 30 minutes a student taking 40 minutes to complete the test will be deducted 20%. It is important for students to take extra care to ensure that they have access to dependable power and internet service. Do NOT rely on your computer battery as your only power source when taking the exam. "My battery died" will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience interruption to internet service while taking the exam, please contact the instructor as soon as internet service is restored. In the meantime, document your location, and the date and time of the interruption to internet service. If a student CANNOT complete the exam during the eight-hour period of time on the day assigned for the test due to "technical difficulties", such as interruption to internet service or computer malfunction, the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours via email and arrange an online communication appointment (Skype, Elluminate live, etc.) with the instructor to complete the exam. For students in close proximity to the University of Calgary, the exam can be written in person at the Religious Studies Department.

Grading.

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

Email. Inquiries related to exams or assignments MUST be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send assignments via email unless approved in advance. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and Blackboard course information postings for schedule information.

Illnesses and Emergencies. If you are not able to submit an assignment on the due date or take a test during the time of availability due to illness or an emergency, you must notify the instructor within 24 hours of the due date or test date and provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc.) within 48 hours of the assigned due date or test time. Please scan the documentation and email to the instructor.

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 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 Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

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>.

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. 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 3rd 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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

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.