

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 201 L01: Jews, Christians and Muslims
<b>Time</b>	M/W/F 1:00-1:50 pm
<b>Instructor</b>	Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
<b>Office Hours</b>	M/W 2:00-3:00
<b>Office</b>	SS 502
<b>E-mail</b>	cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
<b>Telephone</b>	403-220-5612

**Required Text(s):** *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 D2L.

**Course Description:** This course will provide an introduction to the western faiths focusing on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with some attention to Mormonism and Pentecostalism. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, textual tradition, cultural context(s), leading figures, institutions, practices, and key beliefs/doctrines. Students will be guided through an introductory reading of select texts (in English translation) of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an, and guided in the examination of revelation, historical context, textual criticism, and issues in exegesis. The development and fragmentation of each faith will be discussed, highlighting cultural shifts and sectarian distinctions. Special attention will be given to Abrahamic covenant, the office of the prophet, conquest/war, anti-Semitism, and dimensional analysis and comparison.

**Online elements for this course:** Accessing online texts of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an. Links will be posted on D2L.

**Core Competencies:** 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
- dimensional and comparative analysis 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
- key religious texts and approaches to interpretation
- the development of sectarianism within each of the western religious traditions

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
September 22	Test #1: Includes class material September 8 - 17 and textbook chapters one (all) and two (select sections to be identified during class).	16%
October 20	Test #2: Includes class material September 19 - October 15, textbook chapter three, and Hebrew Bible readings.	28%
November 17	Test #3: Includes class material October 17 – November 12, textbook chapter four, and Hebrew Bible and New Testament readings.	28%
Final Exam (registrar scheduled)	Not comprehensive. Includes class material November 14 - December 5, textbook chapter five, and Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur'an readings.	28%

**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:**

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

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

Practice courtesy toward fellow students. Respect the right of all students to contribute to discussion. Promote objective inquiry, refraining from remarks that attack or advocate religious beliefs.

**Expectations for email correspondence in this course:**

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 email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information.

### **Electronic Device Policy:**

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking notes. Do not use laptops during class for emailing, checking facebook, watching videos, etc. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of laptops or texting during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to the University Calendar Academic Regulations E.6, “With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered.” For further information please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

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 email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information.

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

### **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.

