

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

RELS 201 L20
World Religions - Western

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2011

Logistics	<p>Time Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-12:45</p> <p>Location EDC 386</p> <p>Instructor Dr. David A. Bergen dabergen@ucalgary.ca 403-220-7063</p> <p>Office Hours Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-2:00 (SS 1308)</p> <p>Textbooks <i>Religions of the West Today</i> (Oxford University Press).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A schedule of assigned readings will be posted in Blackboard (“Course Documents”).</p>						
Course Description	<p>This course will describe and analyze the thoughts and actions of humans, as embodied in the communities and traditions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The descriptive phase of the course (relying on the textbook’s presentation) will provide a basic knowledge of the discourses of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The analytical phase will offer a naturalized understanding of these discourses that fix the shared attentions of their adherents. In keeping with the adopted mandate issued by B. Lincoln, frequent critique will be raised on the subject of “western religion” and its study:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>When one permits those whom one studies to define the terms in which they will be understood, suspends one’s interest in the temporal and contingent, or fails to distinguish between ‘truths,’ ‘truth-claims,’ and ‘regimes of truth,’ one has ceased to function as a historian or scholar. In that moment, a variety of roles are available: some perfectly capable (amanuensis, collector, friend and advocate) and some less appealing (cheerleader, voyeur, retailer of import goods). None however should be confused with scholarship. (“Theses on Method,” <i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i> 8, 225-7; 1996)</i></p>						
Learning Assessment	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Two equally-weighted midterm exams (May 30 and June 13)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (June 27-29)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100%</td> </tr> </table>	Two equally-weighted midterm exams (May 30 and June 13)	66%	Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (June 27-29)	34%	Total	100%
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Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (June 27-29)	34%						
Total	100%						

- *the exams will involve typical university testing formats.*
- *the content of each exam will be weighted 70% towards the descriptive phase and 30% towards the analytical phase.*
- *a passing grade on any of the three exams is not essential for passing the course.*
- *no external aids will be allowed for any exams in this course.*

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

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

Important Dates

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

Academic Accommodation

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.

Course Withdrawal

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

Lecture Recording

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

Safewalk Program

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 403-220-5333 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!

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>.