

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2014**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Course</b>       | RELS 201 L01 World Religions-Western  |
| <b>Time</b>         | This is an online course that will be delivered through the Desire2Learn (D2L) learning management system.                            |
| <b>Instructor</b>   | Craig W.C. Ginn, PhD  |
| <b>Office</b>       | SS1334  |
| <b>Office Hours</b> | Online office hours Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm. Communication options will be announced on the D2L learning management system. |
| <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 (with some attention to Mormonism and Pentecostalism) and Islam. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, cultural context(s), leading figures, textual tradition, institutions, and doctrinal distinctives.

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 course will be composed of five 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)

Course content will be delivered through readings (text and web-based), audio files (lectures and interviews) and online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

**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. Accessing online documentaries and video recordings.

**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

| Assessment  | Online Availability  | Weight |
|---|--|--------|
| Orientation Quiz: Includes course information   | 10 am May 16 – 10 pm May 17                                  | 5%     |
| Module 1 Test: Includes chapter 1 and course material May 19-22   | 10 am May 23 – 10 pm May 24                                  | 10%    |
| Module 2 Test: Includes chapter 2 and course material May 26-29   | 10 am May 30 – 10 pm May 31                                  | 10%    |
| Module 3 Test: Includes chapter 3, Hebrew Bible readings, and course material June 2-6  | 10 am June 9 – 10 pm June 10                                 | 25%    |
| Module 4 Test: Includes chapter 4, Hebrew Bible readings, New Testament readings, and class material June 11-18                 | 10 am June 20 – 10 pm June 21                                | 25%    |
| Module 5 Test: Includes chapter 5, Hebrew Bible readings, New Testament readings, Qur'an readings and class material June 19-26 | Registrar scheduled exam, available during final exam period | 25%    |

### 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 Religious Studies:

|    |          |   |         |    |          |
|----|----------|---|---------|----|----------|
| 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 |

### Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

Module tests will be available for a limited time period. If a student misses a module test during the time it is made available, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the missed module test. 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.

According to the University Calendar Academic Regulations G.6, “Deferred examinations are allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction and religious conviction. Students submitting a final examination for marking may not subsequently request a deferred final examination. Lack of writing a final examination does not guarantee approval of a deferred examination. Travel arrangements and misreading of the Examinations Timetable are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred examination.” For further information please see [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final)

### Expectations for student conduct in this course

Please be courteous in email correspondence.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy**

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 Religious Studies 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.

### **Writing Support**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **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.

### **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>.

### **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.