

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

RELS 201 L02
World Religions - Western

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2012

Logistics	Time	Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00am – 12:15pm
	Location	ST 135
	Instructor	Dr. David A. Bergen SS 1308 dabergen@ucalgary.ca 403-220-7063
	Office Hours	Friday, 2:00-3:00 pm or by appointment
	Textbooks	<i>Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions</i> (Corrigan, et al; Prentice Hall). Additional readings to be posted in Blackboard (“Course Documents”).
Course Description	This course will describe and analyze the thoughts and actions of humans belonging to the social communities and traditions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. This descriptive phase will follow the assigned textbook. The analytical phase of the course will analyze various constructions of “Western Religion,” ranging from academic textbooks to pop-culture and general media representations. In both phases this course will adopt as its mandate the following directive by Bruce Lincoln: <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.</i> (“Theses on Method,” <i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i> 8, 225-7; 1996)	
Learning Assessment	Two equally-weighted midterm exams (February 7 and March 20)	66%
	Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (TBA)	34%

- exams will involve typical university testing formats.
- exam content 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.
- if a student is anticipating a class absence s/he should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; lecture notes will not be available from the instructor.
- tests must be written on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). You must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.
 - The University Calendar states: “It is the responsibility of students who have prolonged absences from class because of physical and/or emotional health problems to present to the faculty office offering the course a statement from a physician/counselor attesting to the physical or emotional health of the student.”
- no remedial assignments are available in this course.
- please note that the University of Calgary regulations strictly prohibit the following during examinations (the penalty for which is suspension or expulsion or such other penalty as may be determined):
 - speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever;
 - bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, or document not authorized by the examiner;
 - leaving answer papers exposed to view
 - attempting to read other student’s examination work.

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 .

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's 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/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new 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 Office of the Student Ombuds 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.

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. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.