

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

RELS 201 L01 *World Religions - Western*

WINTER 2013

Place and Time: ENA 103, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 11:00-11:50am

Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen, SS 1308, 403-220-7063, dabergen@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Monday @ 2:00-3:00pm (appointment preferable)

Textbook: *World Religions: Canadian Perspectives - Western* (ed. Jakobsh; Nelson Education 2013).

Content and Objectives:

This course will describe and analyze at an introductory level the religious behaviours and thoughts of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, as (re)constructed in academic scholarship. The descriptive component of the course (most Fridays) will focus on the textbook's presentation of the basics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The analytical component (most Mondays and Wednesdays) will position "western religion" within a wide bio-evolutionary framework.

The principal objectives of this RELS 201 course are twofold: a descriptive knowledge of the scholarly construction of "western religion" and an analytical understanding of human nature. The study of western religion is therefore a means to an end: the reflexive analysis of ourselves and our world.

Assessments:

Six Online Quizzes - 40%

These quizzes will be based on the *descriptive* material of the textbook (multiple choice, true/false questions; non-cumulative and equally-weighted). Each quiz will be made available for completion in Blackboard on these dates: Jan 19-20, Feb 2-3, Feb 16-17, Feb 23-24, Mar 23-24, Apr 13-14.

Three Written Exams - 60%

These exams will focus on the *analytical* material of the lectures (fill-in-the-blank, short-answer questions; equally-weighted and cumulative in discursive structure). These tests must be written on February 4, March 11, and a registrar-scheduled date (between April 19-30).

Student Responsibilities:

To achieve success in this course, students are advised to:

- *read* the assigned pages prior to the weekly tutorial (see schedule posted in Blackboard, Course Information);
- *seek* clarification of the textbook's presentation at the tutorials;
- *attend* the lectures and *record* accurate, detailed notes;
- *review* and reflect on lecture notes weekly; *search out* necessary information where notes and understanding are incomplete;
- *study* hard and smart, allotting sufficient time prior to each quiz or exam for rereading of textbook and notes.

Details:

Please note these important details:

- no remedial assignments are available in this course.
- lecture notes will not be available from the instructor.
- a passing grade on any of the graded components is not essential for passing the course.
- no external aids are permitted during the written tests.
- quizzes and exams 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 of-fice offering the course a statement from a physician/counselor attesting to the physical or emotional health of the student.”

- please note that the University of Calgary regulations strictly prohibit the following during written 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+ 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

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 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online services/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/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gno-sis@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.

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.

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.