

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
WINTER 2013

RELS 201 L03 World Religions - Western

Instructor: Craig Ginn, PhD **Contact:** cwcginn@ucalgary.ca (403) 220-5612
Classroom: ENE 241 **Class Time:** TR 14:00-15:15
Office: SS1304 **Office hrs:** TR 12:30-13:30 or by appointment
Teaching Assistant: Roselle Gonsalves **TA Email:** rgonsalv@ucalgary.ca

Textbook:

World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials. Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, editors. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010, Print.

Course description:

This course will provide an introduction to the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and discuss each tradition according to its historical background, sacred texts, leading figures, textual tradition, institutions, practices, organization, and beliefs. 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, and issues in exegesis. The development and fragmentation of each faith will be discussed along with an examination of evolution during the Medieval and Modern eras. Special attention will be given to Abrahamic covenant, the office of the prophet, conquest/war, mystical traditions, anti-Semitism, and comparative study.

Course Objectives:

- To identify the Abrahamic legacy of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- To gain an understanding of the chronological development of the western traditions
- To gain an understanding of the nature and development of theology and philosophy
- To gain an understanding of the western scriptures and approaches to interpretation
- To explore the development of doctrine and authority
- To appreciate key thinkers in the western traditions
- To explore the relationship between religion and state
- To examine schisms in the western traditions
- To gain skills in the historical and comparative study of western faiths
- To discuss the reciprocal relationship between society and religion

Course requirements:

In-class Assignments

Worth 15%

Dates: Not scheduled

Students must complete three in-class assignments worth 5% each. The assignments will be based on readings and lectures. The assignments will reinforce analysis of religion based on Ninian Smart's Dimensions of Religion and will typically require short answers. Students will NOT be notified of the assignment date in advance, though students may plan on the assignment to be given after the midway point of each unit of study when textbook readings are expected to be completed. Absence from an in-class assignment will be treated equivalent to an absence from an exam and require documentation.

Exam #1 Worth 10%
Date: January 22
Introductory material
(includes lectures January 10-17; chapters one and two)

Exam #2 Worth 25%
Date: February 14
Judaism
(includes lectures January 22-February 12; chapter three)

Exam #3 Worth 25%
Date: March 26
Christianity
(includes lectures February 26-March 19; chapter four)

Final exam Worth 25%
Date: Scheduled by the Registrar's Office
Islam
(includes lectures March 21 – April 16; chapters five)

Note: Students must be available to write the final exam on the day and time set by the Registrar's Office, up to the last day of the examination period. The dates of the final exam period are April 19-30

Grading:

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	65-69%	D+	53-54%
A	90-95%	B	75-79%	C	60-64%	D	50-52%
A-	85-89%	B-	70-74%	C-	55-59%	F	<50%

Email:

Inquiries related to exams MUST be sent no less than 48 hours before the scheduled exam. 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 Devices:

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 from the instructor or other students due to the misuse of laptops or texting during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording Lectures:

According to Academic Regulations E.6, recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, "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."

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/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.

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>.

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.