

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

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

Course	RELS 201 L02 World Religions-Western
Time	TR 12:30 - 13:45
Instructor	Craig W.C. Ginn, PhD
TA(s)	Janet Bell
Office	SS1334
Office Hours	TR 15:30-16:30
E-mail	cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	(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 Blackboard.

Optional Text(s)

Course Description This course will provide an introduction to the western faiths focusing on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with some attention to Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Pentecostalism. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, textual tradition, cultural context(s), leading figures, institutions, practices, and key beliefs/doctrines. 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 development and fragmentation of each faith will be discussed, highlighting cultural shifts and sectarian distinctives. Special attention will be given to Abrahamic covenant, the office of the prophet, conquest/war, anti-Semitism, and dimensional analysis and comparison.

Online elements for this course (if any) Accessing online texts of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an. Links will be posted on Blackboard.

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

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
January 23	Module 1 Test: Includes chapter 1 (all), chapter 2 (select sections to be identified in class), and class material January 14-21.	15%
February 13	In-class participation assignment	3%
February 25	Module 2 Test: Includes chapter three, Hebrew Bible readings, and class material January 28-February 13.	25%
March 18	In-class participation assignment	3%
March 20	Module 3 Test: Includes chapter four, New Testament readings, and class material February 27 March 18	25%
April 10	In-class participation assignment	4%
(Registrar scheduled)	Final Exam to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during Final Examination Period April 17;19-29 (includes chapter five, Qur'an readings, and class material from Mar 25 –April 10).	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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

If a student misses a module test or in-class assignment, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the exam or in-class assignment 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

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Practice courtesy toward fellow students. Respect the right of all students to contribute to discussion. Promote objective inquiry, refraining from remarks that attack or advocate religious beliefs.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

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

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to the University Calendar Academic Regulations E.6, "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." For further information please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

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. 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.

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/bbbs_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.