

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

RELS 201.03 World Religions - Western

OUTLINE – Winter 2014

Place and Time: Electronic Online Course – *All* course information, test assessments, and group discussions to be accessed or completed in University of Calgary's Blackboard course management system.

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

Online office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00-10:00

Textbook: *Religions of the West Today* (2012 second edition; Esposito, Fasching, Lewis; Oxford University Press). (Links to any relevant electronic notes, articles, video clips, blogs, etc. will also be posted in Blackboard.)

Description and Objectives:

This course describes and analyzes at an introductory level the religious behaviours and thoughts of those who adhere to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The data to be analyzed will be drawn from the academic presentation of the *Religions of the West Today* textbook. The course is divided into six modules, following the chapter-by-chapter layout of the textbook.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to describe in some detail and with some sophistication:

- the contested varieties of thought structure and behaviour of “western” humans, spanning a broad spectrum of history;
- the mechanisms used in the west to produce social cohesion and psychological coherence, a process ultimately concerned with matters of continuity and discontinuity;
- the assumptions, motivations, and purpose of the academic study of religion.

Assessments:

Start-Up Quiz 5% Course Bonus (deadline: January 22, 12:00pm)

Six Bi-Weekly Online Tests - 80% of course grade (tests accessed over a 48-hour period beginning at noon on the following dates: Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 12, Feb 26, Mar 12, and Mar 26)

Five Bi-Weekly Group Discussions - 20% of course grade (discussions to be held over a 48-hour period beginning at noon on the following dates: Feb 5, Feb 19, Mar 5, Mar 19, Apr 2)

Missed Assessments:

Students will be given two attempts to write each test; however, a student attempting a second writing will likely not see an identical test as in the first attempt. If, in the second attempt, a student experiences computer, wi-fi, or internet problem, then that student must contact the instructor within 24 hours. A determination will then be made on a possible make-up test, to be written in person in the Religious Studies Department between April 15-17 (exam time to be announced). Please note: *unlike the online tests, all make-up tests will be in short-answer format with no access to external materials (textbook or notes).*

No remedial assignments are available to students who miss a bi-weekly group discussion.

Student Expectations:

Students should be aware that an online course brings added responsibilities--students must be self-motivated in their efforts and self-diligent in their attention to detail. To succeed, students should:

- *enter* in their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in Blackboard);
- *ensure* that their computer and server are fully operational. No exceptions will be made for technical glitches (e.g., server crash, browser freeze-up, battery drain, wi-fi dropout ... in short, anything between the university's system and the student's computer) other than those problems for which the University demonstrates responsibility. *It is therefore the responsibility to the student of an online electronic course to ensure that they possess (or have access to) the stable equipment and secure signal necessary to complete the course.*
 - for information on supported browsers and operating systems most compatible with Blackboard, please review these webpages: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> <http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=57442326>
 - in the event of a computer problem in the second test attempt, students must contact [Information Technologies](#) to confirm that the university system encountered a glitch while the test was in session. This confirmation must then be forwarded to the instructor, who will be able to reset the test for a third and final attempt.
- *read* thoroughly the assigned pages prior to each weekly test (see schedule posted in Blackboard, Course Information);
- *participate* meaningfully in discussions of an assigned question;
- *check* regularly and frequently for email messages and the Blackboard site for updates, changes, and announcements;
- *study* hard, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of textbook material.

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

Course Syllabus:

A complete course syllabus will be made available in the first week of class.

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 FAQs 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.