

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

COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Course</b>	RELS 205 - Religion and the Good Life
<b>Time</b>	Web based
<b>Instructor</b>	Jenna Ferrey
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>TBD</b> - Instructor will be available to meet on campus and via Skype. Please contact to set meeting time.
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:jaferrey@ucalgary.ca">jaferrey@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Required Texts:**

- Kessler, Gary E., *Philosophy of Religion: Toward a Global Perspective* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth, 1999)
- Additional Readings will be provided on D2L

**Course Description**

This course will explore the question “*what is the good life?*” through themes related to religion and philosophy. Students will be introduced to the academic study of religion and some of its central questions. We will look at themes of religion, secularism, and atheism in connection to how various philosophers, thinkers, and traditions have pursued the good life. Included in this exploration will be ideas about good, evil, suffering, diversity and truth. The course will be structured thematically and students will have an opportunity to explore themes from diverse traditions. There will be a focus on critical reading, analysis, and writing.

**Core Competencies**

There will be a strong focus on **self directed learning** because this is a web based course. **Students will be expected to carefully and diligently complete their readings.** Reading guides will be provided for most, if not all, required readings to assist students in pulling out key themes and ideas. Students will be expected to be able to understand and analyze required texts and multiple choice tests will be structured to analysis rather than memorization. One key writing assignment will be broken down into three steps to help students develop important writing skills such as planning, clarity, and concise analysis. Students will be encouraged to form and work in study groups to discuss material and readings. Students may form their own groups, or request to be placed in a group by the instructor.

## Course Requirements

Assessment	Date	Weight
Quizzes	Every Friday	50%
Essay Topic Proposal	Oct. 17	5% Awarded on a pass fail basis. This assignment will need to be completed before the outline or essay will be graded.
Essay Outline	Oct. 31	10% This assignment must be completed before the final essay will be graded.
Final Essay	Dec. 9	15%
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	TBD	20%

### Quizzes On Readings

Quizzes will be based on readings and will focus on analysis and comprehension of the material. In order to accommodate differing schedules, students will have a 24 hour window in which a test must be taken. Once the tests have been opened by the student there will be a 1 hour time limit in which it must be completed. **The student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped. This option to drop the lowest grade will serve as an accommodation for students who are ill or have personal issues that prevent them from taking a quiz.**

### Essay Proposal

Students will chose from a section of essay questions and submit a **short** (max 200 words) proposal of how they intend to approach the topic and which sources they will use. This assignment will be graded on a pass/fail basis and students who do not pass will be allowed to resubmit with no penalty. **An approved proposal is required before the outline or final essays will be graded.** Students who do not submit a passing proposal by the deadline will be docked 1% per day late for this assignment. Additional Instructions will be provided via D2L.

### Essay Outline

Students will present a **concise** plan of their essay. **This assignment must be completed prior to the submission of the final essay.** This assignment serves to ensure that students are on the right track and they have strong plan for their final assignment. Additional instructions will be provided via D2L.

### Final Essay

Final written assignment addressing one or more key themes from the course. This essay should be based on the proposal and outline previously submitted. Due to the size of the class there will be **500 - 800 word limit**. This should factor into the proposal and outline planning stages. **Students will be encouraged to pick a concise topic or idea to explore and will be expected to do so within 800 words.** Additional instructions will be provided via D2L.

## Grading

A numerical grade will be given for each course requirement with a letter grade awarded as the cumulative grade for the course. Below is the table approved by the Dept of Classics and Religious Studies

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

### **POLICY REGARDING MISSED ASSESSMENTS**

Quizzes must be completed within the window allotted. One quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'.

Assignments may be submitted at any time before the listed deadline. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a penalized grade.

This policy is intended to promote fairness and equality within the course, as well as to promote academic diligence among students. The realities of self directed learning and a web based course can allow for some students to fall into problematic patterns of procrastination. Regular testing is done to ensure students are on track and prepared to meet the final requirements of the course on time.

**\*\*\* Students should consider the reading and self-directed elements of this course seriously. While there will be some effort to accommodate the variety of schedules presented by online learners, deadlines are firm. \*\*\***

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available on the course website during the first week of term.

### **Final examination:**

There will be a registrar scheduled final examination. If students are taking the course as a distance ed course an alternative assignment can be arranged with proof of residence.

### **Academic Honesty**

**Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences.** Your essays and assignments 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, or librarian staff.

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit

[www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

You may also contact IT. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/>

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 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.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

### **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.