

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2020

**Course** Religious Studies 205 – Religion and the Good Life  
**Time** Online  
**Instructor** Dr. T. Ruparell  
**Office Hours** T 10:00-11:00  
**Office** SS530  
**E-mail** [ruparell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 4032207069

**Required Text(s):** Michael Peterson et. al. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings* Oxford University Press, 2014

The book is only available in paper copy and can be purchased or rented from the University of Calgary bookstore. The bookstore does deliver.

Other required readings may be posted on the D2L site for the course

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to issues in the academic study of religion as well as some of its central questions. We will be concerned with questions such as What is Religion? How should it be defined? What are the differences between subjective/objective perspectives in religion? and How might we compare religions? Additionally, we will consider a few of the central questions and problems which have more recently exercised philosophers of religion both in the 'west' and 'east.' These include questions arising from religious experience and language, the problem of evil and religious diversity and truth. The course will proceed thematically and philosophically, rather than historically. The aim of the course is to give students an understanding of the problematic nature of religion and its study.

**Online elements for this course:**

**(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)**

This course is taught **entirely on-line**. As such, students are expected to be **entirely self-directed in this course**. Students will need to read the assigned material as well as to independent research and learn any background material needed to understand the readings and lectures. While emailed questions may be sent, I will respond only to questions specifically referring to the content of the course readings and lectures. So, questions which, in the opinion of the instructor or teaching assistant, can be answered through simple reference to the outline, syllabus, lectures or readings, will not be answered. If you have a question which is *genuinely philosophical or critical in nature*, these may be replied to or deferred to the next on-line question session (Tuesdays during the term, from 10:00am-12:00pm).

If you have questions or issues with the format of the course, or difficulties accessing materials or access to research, please attend to these before the beginning of the class.

**As an online class, students are entirely responsible for their own methods of getting on-line.** I will not accept ‘bad internet connections’, ‘computer problems’ or any other technical issues as excuses for failing to complete assignments or tests. **Timed, online assessments will be available for a strictly set period of time and will not be available at other periods. Once you begin the online assessments, you must finish them. You cannot pause or re-take these assessments, and failure to complete the assessments may result in a zero awarded for that assessment. Students are urged to make sure that their connection the internet and to the D2L site is robust and stable during the online assessments.** I will not accept any excuses along the lines of: ‘my internet went down during the test’, or ‘my computer crashed during the test’ for failure to complete the assessments. **It is essential, and YOUR responsibility to ensure you have adequate IT resources to take this course.** This policy is meant to maintain equity for all students as it is virtually impossible for me to validate or help you deal with technical issues you may face.

Students are encouraged to contact me if you have any non-IT related queries or issues affecting their taking this class

**Core Competencies:**

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the academic study of religion and in so doing gain critical reading and analytic skills. Students will gain an awareness of the diversity and nuances of religious traditions and the issues they typically face. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the arts, social sciences and the humanities as well as in wider social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect more clearly and critically on the nature of religion in society and their own religious narratives.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
15 May 2020	On-line assessment 1; 9:00- 21:00	10
22 May 2020	On-line assessment 2; 9:00- 21:00	10
29 May 2020	On-line assessment 3; 9:00- 21:00	15
5 June 2020	On-line assessment 4; 9:00- 21:00	15
12 June 2020	On-line assessment 5; 9:00- 21:00	15
19 June 2020 final exam	Cumulative final exam.	35

**Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Final percentages will be rounded according to conventional mathematical rules. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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 regards to both form and content.

Tests are not “open book.” Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the weekly tests. The use of course materials during a test constitutes academic misconduct. Students must complete on-line tests individually. Collaboration with other students in taking tests is not permitted and constitutes academic misconduct.

Note: Course content is NOT available on the day of a test. Students need to ensure that they have accessed the content before the day of the test

**Extra Assignments:**

There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

**Weighting of Tests:**

The weighting for tests identified above will not be changed to accommodate student requests. In accordance with the U of C Academic Regulations E.1 (e) Course Outlines, “Weighting may not be changed during the term or at the time of grade reporting.”

**Reviewing Tests:**

The online tests for this course display the student’s final score. Individual test answers are not displayed. For students interested in seeing individual test answers, please email your request with the instructor at the end of the term after all tests are completed. At that time, you can re-view all your test answers.

**Policy with regards to missed assignments/assessments:**

As this is an online class, weekly lectures will be posted Saturday nights for the following week. I will not post all of the materials at once, so you will need to follow the course on a weekly basis. Friday on-line assessments will be posted for a period of 24 hours only each Friday between noon Friday to noon Saturday per the schedule above. You will have between 45-60 minutes to complete the tests. Please ensure that you are able to complete the assessment during this period. **No other times will be available, so please adjust your schedule so you can complete the assessment during this time. I will not make the on-line assessments available after the assessment dates, irrespective of completion of the assessment.**

**Note regarding assessments:**

The weekly quizzes will be multiple choice exams, and the final exams may be multiple choice and/or some short-written essays. More information will be given about the final the week before it takes place.

**Given the nature of this course and the philosophical material which we will cover, multiple choice questions can be quite challenging. I reserve the right to *curve* the grades depending on class averages as well as the grade distribution.**

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This is a student-driven, on-line course. You should be prepared to read the materials and follow the online lectures for the course. If you do not understand the material, it is up to you to find and read supplementary material in order for you to understand it. Neither I (nor the TA for the

course, if one is assigned) will respond to emails which, in our view, ask questions which, with a little effort or re-reading, can be answered for yourself. (Such discussion and input are, of course, aspects of in-person courses, and I will not attempt to re-create such an experience through online communication). If you have a genuinely philosophical or critical question, at our discretion we will either respond to your email or defer response to the online office hour (Tuesdays 10:00-12:00) where I (or the TA) will respond to questions or issues which may be helpful for the whole class. The aim for this course is for you to be able to read/listen to the material in your own time, as well as clarify for yourself any issues or questions you may have. Email must be sent to the instructor from a University of Calgary email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail. Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course number you are registered in. Inquiries related to exams must be sent no less than 48 hours before the deadline for the exam. Do not send me emails concerning on-line assessments on the day of the assessment. In most cases these will not be answered. The instructor will reply to emails only on business days, and only between 9:00-17:00.

I will post a bibliography or materials / sites where you can research your questions further.

### **Electronic Device Policy:**

As an online class, students are entirely responsible for their own methods of getting on-line. I will not accept 'bad internet connections', 'computer problems' or any other technical issues as excuses for failing to complete assignments or tests. Timed, online assessments will be available for a strictly set period of time and will not be available at other periods. Once you begin the online assessments, you must finish them. You cannot re-take these assessments, and failure to complete the assessments will result in a zero awarded for that assessment. Students are urged to make sure that their connection to the internet and to the D2L site is robust and stable during the online assessments.

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first day of class.

### **Course Schedule:**

The course schedule is provided on D2L. Availability of material and test dates will not be changed to accommodate personal scheduling preferences of students, including work schedules, vacations, camping trips, and the repair of personal computers.

### **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, or librarian staff.

### **Copyright Regulations**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright Policy](#) and understand their copyright responsibilities. Instructor created content (lecture presentations, assignments, exams, etc.) have been designed for use as part of this course at the University of Calgary and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise

stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copyright-protected materials may only be copied or distributed provided it is permissible to do so under [Canadian Copyright law](#), university agreements and permission from the copyright holder. Find out more about copyright at [library.ucalgary.ca/copyright](http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright).

### **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.

### **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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> 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 Block.

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

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): [https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_and\\_protection\\_of\\_privacy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.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.

### **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.