



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2022

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 205

COURSE NAME: Religion and the Good Life

CLASSROOM LOCATION: ICT 121

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: MW 9 – 11:45am

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT: Dr. Gabriele Roccella
gabriele.roccella@ucalgary.ca

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mr. Nicholas Fieseler
nicholas.fieseler@ucalgary.ca

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

An introduction to the academic study of religion with particular emphasis on the nature of religion, its role as a response to existential questions, and the relationship of religion to contemporary thought and culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will be introduced to the problems of studying religion as a living and lived phenomenon, beyond the dogmatized stylizations of any religion codified as an abstract cosmological system. The formation, perpetuation, and adaptation of religious worldviews within different societies and diverse anthropological assets will be complemented by sources which will deepen the students' appreciation of religion not as a dogmatic *apparatus*, detached from the concreteness of human daily life, but as a practical system of thought (tending to coherence, but also comprised of contradictions and compromises) to help navigate the complexities of existence. Students will be encouraged to form critical and interpretive skills that will enable them to explore (in a spirit of inclusivity, constructive cultural relativism, and anthropological curiosity) the exceptional variety of religious attitudes as well as attitudes toward religion itself. Space will be given, towards the end of the course, to the consideration of how the natural environment is envisioned and considered by religious systems from an ethical perspective, in this age of human-driven climate change.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Know, understand, and discuss basic concepts in the study of religious traditions
2. Analyze a range of themes relating to the manifestation of religious experience through human societies and their artistic productions
3. Consider and evaluate critically the impact of religious systems on social and interpersonal behavior, as well as their influence on the definition of happiness and morality in human societies
4. Approach critically how different religious traditions have influenced the relationship between humans and the natural environment

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Readings, Textbooks, and Learning Materials (available at the UCalgary Bookstore)

- Richter, Kent (2017). *Religion. A study in Beauty, Truth, and Goodness*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Additional readings will be posted on D2L

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

CLASS SCHEDULE

June

Monday 27: Introduction to the Course. Outline, schedule, expectations.

- Richter, Chapter 1: Defining "Religion";

Wednesday 29:

- Richter, Chapters 2 and 3: Concepts of Ultimate Beings; Founders and Manifestations;

July

Monday 4:

- First hour: **Quiz 1** (on Chapters 1-2-3)
- Richter, Chapter 4: Scripture as Source and Authority;

Wednesday 6:

- Richter, Chapters 5 and 6: The Languages of Religion; Miscellaneous Doctrines: Truth of Self, Suffering, and Salvation; Additional Readings on D2L

Monday 11:

- First hour: **Quiz 2** (on Chapters 4-5-6; Additional Readings)
- Richter, Chapter 7: Ritual; Additional Readings on D2L

Wednesday 13:

- Richter, Chapters 8 and 9: Moral Action; Social Order and Government;
- Instructions for Assignment 1, due on Wednesday 27th

Monday 18:

- First hour: **Quiz 3** (on Chapters 7-8-9; Additional Readings)
- Richter, Chapter 10: Religious Experience; Additional Readings on D2L

Wednesday 20:

- Richter, Chapters 11 and 12: Religion and Art; Beatitude, or Salvation Reconsidered;

Monday 25:

- First hour: **Quiz 4** (on Chapters 10-11-12; Additional Readings)
- Presentation and discussion of Additional Readings from Meredith McGuire, *Lived Religion* (available online through UofC Library)

Wednesday 27:

- **Assignment 1 due:** to be submitted electronically to the appropriate folder on D2L by 11:59pm
- Presentation and discussion of Additional Readings from Laura Hartman (ed.), *That All May Flourish. Comparative Religious Environmental Ethics* (extracts will be posted on D2L)
- Instructions for Assignment 2, due on Wednesday August 10th

August

Monday 1: *NO CLASSES*

Wednesday 3:

- Presentation and discussion of Additional Readings from Laura Hartman (ed.), *That All May Flourish. Comparative Religious Environmental Ethics* (extracts will be posted on D2L)

Monday 8:

- Presentation and discussion of Additional Readings from Laura Hartman (ed.), *That All May Flourish. Comparative Religious Environmental Ethics* (extracts will be posted on D2L)

Wednesday 10:

- **Assignment 2 due:** to be submitted electronically to the appropriate folder on D2L by 11:59pm
- Presentation and discussion of Additional Readings from Robert Bringhurst & Jan Zwicky, *Learning to Die* (extracts will be posted on D2L)
- Review for the Final Exam

EXAMINATIONS

The final exam date, time and location will be posted to D2L and announced in class once the Registrar will publish the Final Exams schedule. Students **are required to be available for the Final Exam period, i.e. August 12-15, 2022**. The use of aids such as textbooks, course notes or electronic devices will not be permitted during midterm or final examinations.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
July 4	Quiz 1	10	NA
July 11	Quiz 2	15	NA
July 18	Quiz 3	15	NA
July 25	Quiz 4	15	NA
July 27	Assignment 1	10	NA
August 10	Assignment 2	15	NA
Registrar scheduled final	Final Exam	20	NA

- The 4 **Quizzes** will consist of a combination of Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill-in-the-Blanks, and Short Answer questions for a total of 30 points (except for the first one, whose total will add up to 25 points). Quizzes will take place during the first hour of class on their scheduled day. Use of the textbook, notes, or other materials is not allowed.
- The 2 **Assignments** will consist of short essays (**min. 600 – max. 900 words**) to be submitted electronically by the students to the appropriate folder on D2L by 11:59pm of the due date. The **first** assignment will ask students to write a summary of a theme of their choice (e.g. “Moral Action”, or “Ritual”, or “Religion and Art”) from the chapters in the course textbook and/or the additional readings, using **no less than two additional scholarly sources on the same topic** (academic, peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters) to describe supporting or contrasting views on the selected topic.
The **second** assignment will ask students to write a summary of a theme or a chapter of their choice from the additional readings selected from McGuire or Hartman, using **no less than two additional scholarly sources on the same topic** (academic, peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters) to describe supporting or contrasting views on the selected topic.
- The **Final Exam** will consist of a combination of Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill-in-the-Blanks, and Short Answer questions for a total of 40 points. See above, under “Examinations”.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If students miss a required component of the course, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit and/or make-up for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

GRADING

The University’s grading system may be found in the calendar by following this link:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following grade scheme, usually used with the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+ 96 – 100%	Outstanding performance
A 90 – 95%	Excellent performance
A- 85 – 89%	Approaching excellent performance
B+ 80 – 84%	Exceeding good performance
B 75 – 79%	Good performance

B- 70 – 74%	Approaching good performance
C+ 65 – 69%	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C 60 – 64%	Satisfactory performance
C- 55 – 59%	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+ 53 – 54%	Marginal pass
D 50 – 52%	Minimal pass
F 0 – 49%	Failure

When the final grade for the course is calculated, the calculated numerical mark will be **rounded up or down** to the nearest whole number before being converted to a letter grade. It is **not** necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course. A student’s final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically the Dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: “First Name Last Name Assignment Number” (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to

you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/.

RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk