



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF ARTS DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2020 (Revised Version March 16, 2020)

Course	RELS 205 – Section 01 - Religion and the Good Life
Time	Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am – 12:15pm in Room ST 135
Instructor	Jacqueline Ho, PhD
Office Hours	Available by videoconferencing through appointment. Videoconferencing will take place on Zoom. Before midterms and final exams, specific videoconferencing office hours will be made available and posted on D2L.
Office	SS 542
E-mail	jdho@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	(403) 667-2689
Teaching Assistant:	Durga Kale durga.kale1@ucalgary.ca

What is the most ideal method of contact?

I can be reached by phone, email or videoconferencing on Zoom every Thursday from 9:00am to 11:00am. Please email me to make an appointment and a videoconference invite link will be sent to you 10 minutes prior to our appointment. In order to participate with Zoom, you will need a computer that has a camera and you will need to download the [Zoom app](#) onto your computer (You can also use this [direct link](#) from their website as opposed to visiting the app store). If you do not have a computer that has a camera, you can join by audio or use a computer at the library.

What are the required text(s)?: No required textbook. All readings will be uploaded into digital format each week on D2L either as an online library link or a pdf file. Please check D2L each week for regular reading updates.

What is the Calendar Description?: 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.

What will you study in this course?:

This course will offer a survey about the “good life” and basic development patterns among the major ancient religious traditions. For example, how did the natural environment influence

lifestyle? How were beliefs about the sacred informed by local culture and major historical events? How did the ancient people define happiness? How was storytelling or narratives used to pass on values and beliefs about identity? By answering these questions in an inquired-based approach, students will reflect on the shared development patterns that religious traditions share globally through the following themes: environment & landscape, storytelling & narratives, leadership & community, and identity & values. Finally, for each religion, there will be dialogues on how these patterns continue to shape contemporary religious forms as they pertain to ideas about survival, safety, stability, anticipation of the future, and so forth.

We will begin with investigating development patterns in Egyptian religion, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Finally, we will examine the same themes in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese Religion (time permitting). Due to the introductory nature of the course, there may be content that overlaps with other introductory religious studies courses. However, the nature of the discussions will be unique to this course. As this is a survey course that focuses on the ancient/formative period of religious traditions, there will not be an in-depth study of individual religious traditions. However, students are encouraged to enroll in higher level religious studies courses to expand their learning and research.

What are the online elements for this course?:

Lesson plans, additional readings, announcements, important updates, grades, feedback for tests, and external links will be regularly updated on D2L. It is the student's responsibility to check the D2L page for this class periodically (once a week is recommended).

D2L can be accessed at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/login.asp> (student login required)

Online content will feature Google VR Tours with narration, and Powerpoint presentations with narration and will be posted at the start of class on Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00am. In the event that there are technical issues with posting online materials, further updates will be made on the announcements page.

What core competencies will I learn?:

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) Comprehend how cultural assumptions inform religious beliefs and practices, and vice-versa.
- 2) Explain different perspectives about how views of the "good life" are informed by local environments, culture and major historical events.
- 3) Apply critical thinking to journal articles and other academic sources.

Film Clips:

You can access missed film clips directly on the Powerpoints by right-clicking on the posted link, and selecting "open link." Please note that this feature is not available in presentation/slide show mode. If you are in the presentation/slide show mode, click ESC to exit that mode. Occasionally, there may also be film links that are posted directly in the lesson plan section of D2L.

What are the Course Requirements?:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Date
Midterm #1	Non-Cumulative <u>Format:</u> Multiple Choice, Short Answer, True/False	35%	Thursday, Feb. 13
Midterm #2	Online on D2L (Open Book) Non-Cumulative <u>Format:</u> Multiple Choice, Short Answer, True/False	35%	Tuesday, Mar. 24 11:00am to 12:15am
Final Exam	Online on D2L (Open Book) Non-Cumulative <u>Format:</u> Multiple Choice, Short Answer, True/False	30%	Thursday, Apr. 23 11:00am to 12:15am

The Midterm #2 and the Final Exam dates and times are *suggested*. If, due to personal reasons, you cannot write on those dates, you may feel free to suggest another date by contacting the instructor via email. An alternate version of the test will be arranged for you to take. If you require more time to write, due to internet issues or problems with accessing a computer, please contact the instructor to arrange for extended time.

Test material will include online lectures, discussions, PowerPoints, guest speaker video interviews, and assigned reading questions (that will be given in advance). The last day to withdraw from a course without financial penalty is Thursday, Jan. 23rd, and the very last day to withdraw is Wednesday, April 15.*

Although midterm #2 and the final exam are open book, you will be tested on lecture material from the Powerpoints and videos (and not other material that you searched online which may be different). In the event that something you searched online is different from the material given in the Powerpoints, the material from the Powerpoint will take precedence as being the correct answer (since this is a first year survey course vs. a graduate research course).

Grading and Rounding Marks

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme found 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

Grades will be posted on D2L. Percentage scores will be rounded up if they exceed 0.5% For example, a percentage of 69.5% C+ or higher will be rounded up to 70% B-. A percentage of 69.4% C+ will not qualify for being rounded up. Grades will be automatically rounded up manually at the

end of the semester. You do not need to email the instructor to request this.

Policy with regard to missed classes *Important Info*: At the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to exchange contact information with two study buddies. They will be crucial to your performance in this course if you miss a class.



If you cannot attend class, then please follow these steps:

- 1) Check D2L for the Lesson Plan and Powerpoints on the missed day,
- 2) Check with your study buddy for further missed information,
- 3) Do the readings and review the Powerpoint slides,
- 4) If you have questions about the **course content ONLY**, then contact the instructor
OR
Raise your questions during the midterm or final exam online tutorials.

****Please do not skip to step #4 without performing steps #1-3. In other words, please do not ask the instructor about what you missed without checking the available resources first (listed above).**

Requesting Extra Work: In order to ensure equality for all students, extra work will not be assigned to individual students who wish to boost their mark. If you have concerns about your grade, then please consult with your instructor or teaching assistant for consultation and suggestions about how to improve your learning and study habits at the earliest possible time. Office hours will also be made available before midterms and the final exam.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus with weekly lecture topics will be made available on 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 (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:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy. Though not required, it will be much appreciated if you inform the instructor about accommodations needs at the beginning of the semester or at the earliest possible time in order to help facilitate your needs.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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. 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.

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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

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.