FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2021

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 205

COURSE NAME: Religion and the Good Life

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Electronic Course Through Desire2Learn

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Asynchronous Delivery

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Jurgens
EMAIL: lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca
PHONE: (403) 220-5612 (Campus Office)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT POLICY: Please use email as the primary contact method. Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. Please be courteous. Inquiries related to an assessment must be sent no less than 24 hours before the deadline. I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please make an appointment with me over email.

OFFICE HOURS: Individual online meetings by appointment, so that I can schedule meetings based on the needs and schedules of students. Please email me to set up a time to chat.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSSITANTS:

TA: Durga Kale, durga.kale1@ucalgary.ca
TA: Grace Zhang, qian.zhang1@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: What gives life meaning? Many people find meaning in their religious traditions. Many religious traditions have established ethical and moral frameworks regulating personal behaviours which act as a guide for adherents in determining what is right and what is wrong. This course will provide students with an introduction to the three major Western religions from an academic perspective. This course will also explore how these religions provide people with meaning by guiding individuals towards living a good and moral life. From an academic perspective, this course will discuss and analyze the question: What does it mean to live an ethical life? Students will learn how religious traditions address important moral and ethical issues through examining moral inquiries, theories, and contemporary issues, like health and human rights. This course will give students the opportunity to explore religious traditions, ethics, and morality.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L). This course will occur asynchronously. This means that there are no "real-time" or "live" lectures. Rather, students will complete the material for each module on their own time (example: complete the readings, watch videos, etc.). Students will have access to audio lectures recorded by the instructor for each module.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be introduced to different religious traditions with a strong emphasis on ethics and morality from an academic perspective. Committed students will be expected to reflect on ethical issues and will be able to analyze contemporary moral dilemmas. Students will especially develop their reading and writing skills through completing assessments. Students will also develop their critical thinking through assessments. Engaged students will become knowledgeable of the moral principles within each major religious tradition and be able to analyze how to live a good and moral life.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbook: William Schweiker. *The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics.* Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005 (First Edition). Please note, this textbook is available online for free through the University of Calgary library: https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781405144445

Additional free, online readings (like academic articles or sections of eBooks) may be listed on Desire2Learn.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a Desire2Learn site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). Students will complete all tests and submit all assignments through Desire2Learn. There is no "live" or synchronous component to this class. In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking an online course, like this one, are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system
- A current and updated web browser
- Broadband (strong) internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE (Please see individual modules on the course D2L for the most up-to-date schledule)

Schedule	Topic	Readings
January 11 – February 1 First Day of Classes on January 11	Module One: Religion and Moral Inquiry	William Schweiker, On Religious Ethics (Pages 1-6); Robin Lovin, Moral Theories (Pages 19-26); Maria Antonaccio, Moral Truth (Pages 27-35) / **Note: Links for readings are posted in each module on the course D2L.**

February 1 – February 22 Reading Week from Februrary 15 – 19	Module Two: Jewish Ethics	Hilary Putnam, Jewish Ethics? (Pages 159-165); Shaul Magid, Ethics Differentiated from the Law (Pages 176-187); Nancy Levene, From Law to Ethics... and Back (Pages 188-196)
Test #1 – February 26		
Februrary 22 – March 8	Module Three: Christian Ethics	Gene Outka, Christian Ethics? (Pages 197-203); Vigen Guroian, Differentition in Christian Ethics (Pages 214-226); Jean Porter, Trajectories in Christian Ethics (Pages 227-236)
Test #2 – March 12		
March 8 – March 22	Module Four: Muslim Ethics	Ebrahim Moosa, Muslim Ethics? (Pages 237-243); Abdulaziz Sachedina, Islamic Ethics: Differentiations (Pages 254-267); Frederick Denny, Muslim Ethical Trajectories in the Contemporary Period (Pages 268-277)
Test #3 – March 26		
March 22 – April 15 Last Day of Classes on April 15	Module Five: Contemporary Ethical Isuses (Health and Human Rights)	Katherine Young, Health (Pages 519-526); Rhami Khorfan, Bioethical Concept of Life for Life in Judaism, Christianity [Catholicism], and Islam: Abortion When the Mother's Life is in Danger (Pages 99-105); Simeon Ilesanmi, Human Rights (Pages 501-510)
Final Exam – Scheduled by the Registrar (April 19 – 29)		

EXAMINATIONS

There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through Desire2Learn. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. The exam period is from April 19th to April 29th, 2021. More information and specific instructions will be sent out and made available on Desire2Learn.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Friday, February 26th	Test #1	25%
Friday, March 12th	Test #2	25%
Friday, March 26th	Test #3	25%
Scheduled by the Registrar (April 19th – 29th)	Final Exam	25%

Assessment Descriptions:

Tests #1-3 (75%): There will be three tests in this course. The tests will occur on the Fridays after Modules Two, Three, and Four are finished. Tests will be completed through Desire2Learn and will be based on the required readings, the audio lectures, and videos from the modules. Tests will be available for 24 hours on the date assigned for each test. For example, Test #1 will be open on Feburary 26th starting at 1:00 p.m. and it will close at 1:00 p.m. on February 27th. Students are expected to take the test within that period. Each test will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the test in one sitting and within a specified time limit. Students are expected to complete these tests independently and students are **not allowed to work with others** or have others write their tests for them as this would count as academic misconduct.

Final Exam (25%): There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through Desire2Learn. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. The exam period is from April 19th to April 29th. More information and specific instructions will be sent out and made available on Desire2Learn.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra tests or assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or re-take tests to increase their grade.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete all tests within the allotted time. If you do not complete a test within the specified time given, contact your instructor as soon as possible. If a student is unable to complete a test due to technical issues (interruption of Internet service or computer, server malfunction, etc.), the student must notify the instructor within 24 hours via email. It is important for students to ensure that they have access to dependable Internet and power sources. For example, if your battery dies, it will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience technical issues, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In the meantime, document your technical issues with a screenshot to show the instructor.

GRADING

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. 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

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate tests and assignments. It is not necessary to pass each test or assignment separately in order to pass the course. In other words, there are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your final grade. The weighting for the module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests. See the University's undergraduate grading system: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

There is an expectation that all writing is your own. This means that you do not directly copy material from other sources or another person. This also means that you do not paraphrase (re-write) someone else's work in your own words without also citing (providing a citation, like a footnote) to show where you found the information. This is very important as plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your work must be your own 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.
All writing assignments (including the activities) will be assessed on both form and content. This means that writing skills are important for your writing assignments. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. 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
There are no attendance and participation marks for this course.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS
There are no assignments in this course. There are only tests. See above for assessment descriptions.

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. 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

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS
There are no Zoom sessions for this course.

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.

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/ .

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