

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 309 L01: Religious Experience

Fall 2012
TR 15:30-16:45

Instructor:

Dr. Tinu Ruparell

Office:

SS1320

Office Hours:

T 12:00-13:00 and by appointment

Telephone:

403-220-7069

email

ruparell@ucalgary.ca

Textbooks:

William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

Other texts and handouts will be made available for download on the blackboard site for the course

PDF of *Varieties* available at:

<http://selfdefinition.org/christian/William%20James%20-%20Varieties%20of%20Religious%20Experience.pdf>

(*The Varieties* is also widely available in print and can be bought either used or new from most bookshops. I suggest the version from Prometheus Books.)

Course Description:

This course will consider some of the philosophical issues arising from religious experience. Using readings from psychologists and philosophers of religion, we will consider topics under such headings as the nature and interpretation of mystical experience, reductionist and functionalist accounts of religious experience, and comparative philosophy of religion, in an effort to analyse the distinction, if any, between 'ordinary' and 'religious' experience. The work of William James, Freud, Jung, and others will be considered.

Core Competencies:

Active participants in this course will further their skills in conceptual analysis, collection and evaluation of materials from a variety of methodological perspectives, critical reading and reflection, and effective oral and written presentation of their research and conclusions. Students will broaden their perspectives on the place of religion and the status of experience in contemporary societies. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in 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:

ASSESSMENT	DATE	WEIGHT
Midterm in-class exam	Thurs 25 Oct	50%
Term Paper	Thurs 6 Dec	50%

***There will be NO registrar scheduled final exam in this course.**

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:

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%

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

NB. POLICY WITH REGARDING MISSED/LATE ASSESSMENTS

Assessment dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. No allowance will be made for students with previously booked arrangements such as holidays or other personal absences. Please arrange your schedule so as to ensure you are present for assessment due dates.

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.

Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY.

Syllabus:

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

Recording of lectures

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Withdrawing from courses

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

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.

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. 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.