

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 309 L01: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
FALL 2016 COURSE OUTLINE**

Course: Religious Experience

Time: TR 11:00 - 12:15

Location: SA 129

Instructor: Chang-Han Kim

Teaching Assistant: Campbell Peat

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. or by appointment

Office: SS 502

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Telephone: (403) 220-5612

Required Textbooks

Hexham, Irving, and Karla Poewe. *Understanding Cults and New Religions*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986; reprinted Vancouver, Regent College Press.

Please note: The above book is available as a free pdf download from the website:

<http://www.understandingworldreligions.com>.

Martin, Craig, and Russell T. McCutcheon, eds. *Religious Experience: A Reader*. Bristol, CT: Equinox, 2012.

Rankin, Marianne. *An Introduction to Spiritual and Religious Experience*. London: Continuum, 2008.

Please note: The above two books are available from the University of Calgary Library online.

Online Elements for this Course: Additional reading may be posted on D2L

Course Description

This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of theoretical and practical issues which are best described as religious experience. This study will deepen students' awareness of the ideas and main debates about religious experience. Throughout this course, we will examine conceptual and theoretical frameworks required for an adequate understanding of religious experience and discuss the actual role religious experience plays in traditional and contemporary religious and spiritual phenomena.

Core Competencies

By the end of this course students should be able to

- expand their awareness as well as enhance their critical and comprehensive understanding of religious experience
- explain the key terms and theories and the subtle distinctions needed to understand various religious experiences
- discuss the significance of religious experience as a human dimension which is embedded in religion

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
October 13	First Exam	25	No
November 17	Second Exam	25	No
December 6	Final Exam	10	No
December 1	Research Essay	40	No

Detailed Assignment Instructions

First Exam

The first exam will be seventy minutes in length and consist of short answer questions based on the textbooks, course lectures, and other course materials between September 13 and October 11.

Date: October 13, 2016

Value: 25% of the course grade

Second Exam

The second exam will be seventy minutes in length and consist of short answer questions based on the textbooks, course lectures, and other course materials between October 18 and November 15

Date: November 17, 2016

Value: 25% of the course grade

Please note: Students who miss exams must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam; a make-up exam will be considered only in serious cases, such as illness (supported by a medical doctor's note) or personal crisis (the nature of which will be assessed by the instructor).

Final Exam

The final exam will be seventy minutes in length and consist of short answer questions based on the textbooks, course lectures, and other course materials between November 22 and December 1.

Due Date: December 6

Value: 10 % of the course grade

Research Essay

Each student can pick and choose a topic about any aspect of religious experience discussed during the course and write a 2500-word formal academic essay (typed, double-spaced, 12 point). Essays must utilize 6 scholarly books (you can include the textbooks) and 3 scholarly articles (a total of 8 sources). Topics chosen by the student require the instructor's approval. Further instructions and expectations about this essay will be posted on D2L. The citations and bibliography MUST conform to the Chicago Style Format.

Due Date: December 1, 2017

Value: 40% of the course grade

References and Bibliography

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively, please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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, standardized 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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

All the written assignments are to be completed by the deadline. Late assignments will lose 5% for each day past the deadline unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Attendance and class participation are absolutely crucial and will be reflected in the final grade. You are required to attend class regularly, read assigned readings, and actively participate in class discussions. You are responsible for informing the instructor in advance or in a timely manner of the reasons for your absence.

Electronic Device Policy: Electronic devices are allowed in the classroom only for the purposes of course instruction.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Attendance is crucial to follow the course schedule listed below. These assigned passages should be read before the start of each lecture day.

Day	Topics	Readings
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September 13	Introduction to the Course Defining Religion Religious Dimensions	No readings
September 15	The Problem of Experience Defining Experience/Terminology	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 1-16 Rankin, pp. 1-17
September 20	The Background of Experience	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 19-33
September 22	Primal Experiences The Psychology of Shamanism	Hexham & Poewe, pp. 60-72 Hexham & Poewe, pp. 131-153
September 27	Spiritual/Religious Experience	Rankin, pp. 18-26
September 29	The Autonomy of Experience (1)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 37-54
October 4	The Autonomy of Experience (2)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 55-67
October 6	The Universality of Experience (1)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 71-87
October 11	The Universality of Experience (2)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 88-106
October 13	First Exam	
October 18	The Yogic and Abramic Traditions	Hexham & Poewe, pp. 73-94
October 20	Experiences of Founders (1) (Messengers of the Major Religious Traditions)	Rankin, pp. 27-39
October 25	Experiences of Founders (2) (Messengers of Less Well-Known Religious Traditions)	Rankin, pp. 40-52
October 27	Religious Triggers of Spiritual Experience Non-Religious Triggers of Spiritual Experience	Rankin, pp. 53-77 Rankin, pp. 78-92
November 1	Types of Spiritual Experience (1)	Rankin, pp. 93-145
November 3	Types of Spiritual Experience (2)	Rankin, pp. 93-145
November 8	Dying and Death Mystics	Rankin, pp. 146-170 Rankin, pp. 171-195
November 10	The Explanation of Experience (1)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 109-121
November 15	The Explanation of Experience (2)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 102-128
November 17	Second Exam	
November 22	The Unraveling of Experience (1)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 131-150
November November 24	The Unraveling of Experience (2)	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 151-173

November 29	Spiritual and Mystical Experiences of Well-Known People The Interpretation of Spiritual, Religious and Mystical Experience	Rankin, pp. 196-219 Rankin, pp. 240-255
December 1	The Capital of “Experience”	Martin & McCutcheon, pp. 177-202
December 6	Final Exam	

There is no Registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

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

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/.

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.

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 Block.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA): <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.

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/emergency-plan/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.