

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2019 – BLOCK WEEK**

<b>Course</b>	Religious Studies 309
<b>Time</b>	Block week, 2019. 2-5, 7-8 January 2019
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
<b>Office Hours</b>	17:00-18:00 M, or by appointment
<b>Office</b>	SS 530
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca">ruparell@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	403 220 7069

**Required Text(s):**

William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Other required texts and readings will be made available on the D2L site for the course.

**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:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
4,7,8 January	In-class Presentations	30
8 January	In class exam	25
15 January	Final paper	45

**There is no Registrar-scheduled Final exam for 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, 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

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

### Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Assessment dates are firm. This is particularly important for Block Week Classes, as finding time and space for make-up exams/presentations is very difficult. Without an acceptable reason and/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. Absences without valid reasons will receive little attention.

LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY OFF OF THE PAPER GRADE.

### Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This course will require students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and, presentations and exercises will inform the grade for your paper/presentation and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other form and No Recording of Lectures or presentations are permitted without prior, written permission from the instructor, so if you cannot avoid missing a class, please ask a fellow student for notes which you have missed. Lectures will assume knowledge of the assigned texts and will be analytic in nature.

### Electronic Device Policy:

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. While respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed in this course, you are **strongly encouraged not to use them** at all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. **Texting is not permitted in class** and you may leave the room to text in emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities deemed by the instructor not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices

### Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available 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**

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/](http://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](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](mailto: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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.

### **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.