

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023 – BLOCK WEEK

Course Religious Studies 309: Religious Experience
Time Block week, Jan 3-7 2023, each day 09:00-17:00; In Person
Location SS541
Instructor Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office Hours 17:00-18:00 T, or by appointment
Office SS 530
E-mail ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 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 (%)
6 Jan; time TBA	In-class Presentation	40
7 Jan; time TBA	In class exam	10
16 January; 23:59, D2L Dropbox	Term paper (2500 wds)	50

There is no registrar-scheduled Final exam for this course; All assessments must be completed for a passing grade.

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 all 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.

Syllabus:

A Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This course will require students to be present for all classes and participate fully. 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 (FOR IN-PERSON COURSES):

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for note-taking and other in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades (Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online* First May 22, 2014). I **strongly urge you 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 in class is prohibited. If students persist in texting, using the web or other activities 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. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will **not** be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. **No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission.** If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

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, prior and written consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites, discord servers or any other hosting site without permission is prohibited and may result in an F for the course and/or academic or non-academic misconduct.** 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>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Info
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk