

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

***RELS 331 L01 Religious Perspectives on Suffering***

**FALL 2014**

**Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 11:00-11:50

**Instructor:** Dr. David A. Bergen, TBA, 403-220-7063, [dabergen@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dabergen@ucalgary.ca)

**Office hours:** Monday @ 12:00-1:00 pm

**Textbooks:**

*Regarding the Pain of Others* (Sontag)

*Siddhartha* (Hesse)

*Bhagavad Gita* (Miller)

*Maus I & II* (Spiegelman)

*The Brothers Karamzov* (Dostoevsky)

Additional readings and representations to be posted online (Desire2Learn)

**Content and Objectives:**

What is suffering? Why do humans view it negatively? How do we transform prolonged pain into experiences with meaning and purpose? This course will address these questions as we explore and analyze selected representations of human suffering. In so doing, we will situation human experience and representation within the context of 3.8 billion years of earth-bound biology.

**Assessments:**

*Testing of Knowledge - 50%*

Three non-cumulative take-home tests comprised of short-answer questions, to be posted in D2L on following dates and submitted midnight, three days thereafter: Oct 10, Nov 7, and Dec 5.

*Representational Analysis - 50%*

For this analytical component, students will have the choice of either writing a 8-10 page essay that compares three representations of suffering, or of exercising their creative imaginations by representing an instance of suffering of importance to the student, using any non-essay medium. Further information and details on these choices of analysis will be presented early in the term. The deadline for the submission of this project is Nov 21.

*Participation Bonus (10%)*

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to gain a bonus of up to 10% by engaging with materials and information presented in-class. This bonus will be applied at the end of term, once all other assessments have been completed.

## Student Responsibilities:

Attend, Understand, Analyze—three fundamental academic tasks.

### Details:

Please note these important details:

- no remedial assignments are available in this course;
- lecture notes will not be available from the instructor;
- a passing grade on any of the graded components is not essential for passing the course;
- exams must be submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). You must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline. The University Calendar states:  
“It is the responsibility of students who have prolonged absences from class because of physical and/or emotional health problems to present to the faculty office offering the course a statement from a physician/counselor attesting to the physical or emotional health of the student.”
- take-home tests submitted after deadline on the due date will be penalized 5% for every day (or part thereof) overdue.

### Grading Scale

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

### 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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

### 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.

### 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.

### Gnosis

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

### **Classics Student Society**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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.