

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies
Course Outline, Winter 2012

Religious Studies 331 L01: Religious Perspectives on Suffering

Class days and time	TR 11.00-12.15pm
Instructor	Dr. M. Joy
Office	SS1318
Office Hours	TR 10.00-10.50pm
E-mail	mjoy@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-7995

Textbooks

Problems of Suffering in the Religions of the World by John Bowker
Women and Evil by Nel Noddings
Shake Hands with the Devil by Romeo Dallaire
Eichmann in Jerusalem by Hannah Arendt

Course description

If the religions of the world have anything in common, it is the preoccupation with the occurrence of suffering and what is called evil. Human life is fragile and often painful; people are also often conscious of moral defects in themselves and in others. In some religions, particularly those that affirm the existence of an all powerful and benevolent God, there is also a theoretical problem of evil; how are physical or natural and moral evil compatible with belief in such a figure? This problem will be surveyed, together with the human propensity to often attribute to others the responsibility for causing such evil.

Course Format:

The course will include lectures and class discussion in both small groups and the entire class. Each week certain students will be asked to prepare questions for small group discussion. I do recommend, however, that as you read the assigned material, you would all write down questions and comments to bring to class. If you are shy about talking in class, please send your questions or comments to me via email and I will introduce them in class so that all can benefit from the discussion.

Core Competencies:

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas in both written assignments and oral presentations.

Blackboard:

The blackboard system will be used for communication, reporting grades on tests and exams, and posting notes and announcements. Assignments should be submitted in hard copy in class on the due date, please do not use the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

3 written response papers (4 pages) are due on: Jan. 24th, Feb 14th, March 6th	3x10% =	30%
Midterm Exam: February 21 st		15%
Book Report due on March 27 th		15%
Final Essay (10-12 pages) due April 10 th		40%
		<hr/>
		100%

Reading Response Papers – These three papers will be a reflection on course material and class discussions. In no case will a paper be accepted after the due date.

Exams - The midterm and final exam will include short answer questions (requiring answers of one or two paragraphs) and short essay questions (requiring answers of one to two pages). Your answers will be graded on form (proper grammar, effective organization of ideas, clear writing style) as well as content (accuracy, completeness, strength of analysis).

Book Report & Final Essay - Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.

N.B. POLICY REGARDING MISSED EXAMINATIONS

Exam dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IN YOUR DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THIS COURSE.

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.

Policy for Lateness

If students do not wish to incur a penalty for late submission of assignments, permission must be sought from the instructor at least three days prior to the due date.

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 Religious Studies:

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

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.

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/bbls_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 new 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 Office of the Student Ombuds 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.