

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
WINTER TERM 2023**

**COURSE OUTLINE
RELS 339
TRANSFORMATIONS OF RELIGION IN AFRICA**

Classroom location: EDC 284
Class days and times: TuTh 9:30-10:45
Class calendar: Classes for the course begin 10 January and end 11 April.
The term ends on 28 April.

Instructor Irving Hexham
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Course calendar statement: Nature of religion through a study of religious transformations in Africa.

Objectives of the course: This course deals with African traditional religion and society. It examines the religions of Southern Africa and concentrates on Bomvana and Xhosa religion and society.

Learning outcomes and core competencies: At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- a) understand the dynamics of traditional religions in Africa
- b) understand the impact of missionary movements on traditional religions
- c) think critically about religious texts
- d) appreciate the importance of seeing religious beliefs in specific social contexts
- e) be able to make informed judgements religion and society in Southern Africa

Course description: This course introduces students to what is arguably the most neglected area of study in most religious studies programs: the study of African religion. Until recently most religious studies textbooks either totally ignored African religions or presented them in a very short section that was between ten and twenty pages in length. Usually, such discussions were treated in terms of "primitive" religions and were quickly passed over. Only recently has the study of African religions been taken more seriously, but even now it plays a very small role

in religious studies. This course begins by pointing out that Africa is a very large place with many rich religious traditions. It then concentrates on the aspects of East and Southern African religions in the hope that this will raise the awareness of students and prepare the way for further studies.

Course foundations and expectations: This is a fourteen-week course which has only one teaching day in the final week and includes a reading week from Sunday 19 to Saturday 25 February. This means it has twelve full weeks of teaching plus one final day and the reading week. The final day will be used to discuss questions raised by the course or related to student needs.

The course has the equivalent of 3 hours of lecture time per week. For each hour of lectures, you are expected to allow at least four hours for reading, research, and writing.

Practically this means you ought to plan for 10 hours of reading and research each week plus 2 hours of writing. Assuming an average reading speed, which is 20 pages per hour, then the expectation is that you read 200 pages per week or a total of 3000 pages throughout the course. Given that the average academic book has between 250 and 350 pages then you ought to be able to read at least ten academic books during this course.

Reading requirements: You are asked to read and study the following three books which are provided free of charge on the course's D2L program:

John Henderson Soga, *The Ama-Xosa: Life and Customs*, 423 pages.

F. B. (Fred) Welbourn, *Atoms and Ancestors*, 70 pages.

Donovan Williams, *Umfundisi: A Biography of Tiyo Soga*, 86 pages.

All three textbooks are provided as pdf files. The Soga book is in the public domain while Dr. Hebe Welbourn, the widow of F. B. (Fred) Welbourn, gave permission for the reproduction of his book and Donovan Williams' daughter gave me permission to distribute her late father's book.

For those of you who prefer print books, the Welbourn and Williams books ought to be available as printed books from amazon.ca. You can also buy a print copy of Soga's book from amazon.uk. Once ordered they will take about three weeks to arrive.

You might also like to take a look at:

John A Chalmers. *Tiyo Soga*. This is available from the Internet Archive at:
<https://ia600303.us.archive.org/4/items/tiyosogapageofso00chal/tiyosogapageofso00chal.pdf>

Additional electronic, and online articles, may be made available at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~nurelweb/africa.html>

Other related books available from the University of Calgary Library that you might want to take a look at:

Chidester, David
Sundkler, Bengt
Sundkler, Bengt
Krige, E.

Religions of Southern Africa
Bantu Prophets in South Africa
Zulu Zion
The Social System of the Zulus

Journals: Many academic journals carry articles on South Africa. For example, take a look at: *African Affairs*, *Journal of African History*, *Social Dynamics*, *The Journal of Southern African Studies*, *The Journal of Religion in Africa*, *Religion in Southern Africa*, and *The Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*

Films: Students are required to watch a series of films about African life and society in class. Some of these films are very slow moving and may appear boring and irrelevant to the course. Nevertheless, it is important to view them because they capture the pace of traditional African life which is very different from life in modern Canada. Therefore, they provide the necessary context for understanding traditional African religion and society.

How the Course Will Work: The course has three basic components. These are: 1) Lectures; 2) Readings; and 3) Films.

Learning technologies and requirements: Class presentations will use overhead projectors and power point slide shows.

Course requirements and grading: The assignments will be based on the films, lectures, and readings. The weighting for these course components is as follows:

First Test worth 25% of the final grade will be held on Thursday 2nd February.

Second Test worth 25% of the final grade will be held on Thursday 2 March.

Third Test worth 10% of the final grade will be held on Thursday 6 April.

Research assignment worth 40% of the final grade is due on Friday 31 March. Students are required to type their papers and use the Harvard system of references. The Harvard system uses in text notes e.g. (Hexham, *Zulu Religion*, 1987, p.6) then for subsequent references (Hexham, 1987:71). Remember to add a full bibliography. Late papers are accepted but will automatically be deducted 10%. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note.

Grading: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>

A letter grade will be assigned for the course on the basis of the following number and letter grade scheme:

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 regarding missed assessments: If a student misses a module test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Academic honesty: Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic honesty. Please see the *University Calendar*, p. 51. and know how to avoid plagiarism by reading:
<https://people.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/content/courses/courses.htm>

Expectations for student conduct: Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer them toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for email correspondence in this course: Emails must be sent from a UofC email account. Please do NOT send emails from other accounts, such as gmail or hotmail.

Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

Power Point Slides: For copyright reasons power point slides and lecture notes may not be posted on the web. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. These restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

Some recorded lectures will be posted on D2L but only certain ones. Similarly, certain power point slides, i.e. those that do not include copyrighted, limited use, materials, will be posted to D2L. It is your responsibility to pay attention and make your own lecture notes. There is also a growing body of evidence that shows students who write their notes by hand do better than one's who rely on the use of computers in class. Note taking is a skill.

Electronic Device Policy: Laptops are permitted during class if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other

students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6: "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered."

Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, "Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion." Regulation E.6 includes a statement on the Copyright Act: "The Copyright Act and the copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors."

Office hours: Office hours are structured in 15-minute appointments. If a student is not able to meet with the instructor during office hours, the student may request to meet at an alternative time during department hours. Appointments for meetings outside of office hours must be requested in person before or after class, followed by an email request.

Syllabus: A complete syllabus will be made available early in the term.

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.

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 accommodations: 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/.

Research ethics: If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

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 consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

D2L - Desire 2 Learn Help: If you have any problems with D2L please go to: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. This is the Student Help and FAQ's about D2L website. 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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at 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>

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.

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.

Copyright legislation: All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright. This is found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>. The must also follow the requirements of the copyright act found at: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>. Ensure that you 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>.

Media recording: Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf. Please note:

Media recording for lesson capture: The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices: The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

Media recording for the assessment of student learning: The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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>

Student Ombudsperson and Student 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 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.

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) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk