

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
RELS 341 L01 – NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS
WINTER TERM 2011**

Instructor: Irving Hexham
Class time and room: TR 2:00-3:15pm
Lecture room: ST 129
Office/office hours: SS 1310 R12:30 – 1:30pm or by appointment.
Telephone: 403-220-5886 (main office)
E-mail: hexham@ucalgary.ca
Web site: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~hexham>

Sample questions for all the tests will be posted on the web. DO NOT ask for the answers to the sample questions. You must work out the answers yourself. All tests will be based on the lectures, textbooks and readings. The answers to most questions will be found in both the lectures and readings. If you attend all the lectures and read all the readings you will easily pass the course and ought to obtain a good grade.

Textbooks:

Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe, *Understanding Cults and New Age Religions*
Karla Poewe, *New Religions and the Nazis*

Journals:

Many journals carry articles on the new religions. In particular you should look at – [Sociology of Religion](#) and [The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion](#), and [Update](#).

Objectives of the Course:

This course examines the intellectual background and social background to the rise of the new religious movements (cults) and attempts to gain an understanding of their appeal to their members. It attempts to place the beliefs of new religions within the context of the great religious traditions and examines the mythologies which give rise to new religions.

Core Competencies:

At the end of this course students ought to:

- appreciate the way the media reports on religion and new religions in particular;
- understand the meaning of some key terms in religious studies such as cult and sect;
- gain insight into critical thinking through the discussion of sociological theories of religion;.
- be able to make informed judgements about so-called cults

Course requirements:

Lectures begin on January 10 and end on April 15.

Reading Days are February 20-27.

All tests will be based on the readings, books, and lectures.

**First Test worth 40% of the final grade will be held on Tuesday 15 February.
Second Test worth 40% of the final grade will be held on Tuesday 29 March.**

Research assignment worth 20% of the final grade is due Thursday 14 April. Details of the research assignment will be handed out in class. Only hard copy papers will be accepted. Do not send them by email.

* Students must take the test on the assigned day or have a valid medical note.

* Late papers will lose 10 points per day.

There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

Grading:

A letter grade will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade for the course will be assigned on 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

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

Recording of lectures: recording any part of any lectures in any form, including through a computer, is not permitted due to copyright issues. Nor will the power point slides or lecture notes be posted on the web for the same reason.

Academic Honesty: students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Class etiquette: remember you are not the only student in the class. Please make every effort to arrive on time and not to leave before the class ends. In other words concentrate on your studies and do not disturb other students.

MP3 players, computers, and other electronic devices: while attending class you are expected to listen to the lectures however boring you may find them. Therefore, the wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor are computers to be used for watching videos or playing computer games.

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.

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 (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.