

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies**

**RELS 343 L01: Religion & Social Morality
Fall 2012**

Class room and time: SH280, TR 11-12:15

Instructor: Prof. L. Eslinger

Email: eslinger@ucalgary.ca; **Phone:** 403-220-3281

Office: SS1334; **Physical office hour:** R: 3:30-4:30; also accessible online during regular work hours in the discussion forums and by email.

Textbooks

There is no paper-based textbook for RELS 343. Links to the readings specified in the Course Calendar will be posted, in advance, on the RELS 343 Blackboard course page.

Objectives

The primary course objective is for students to develop an understanding of the nature of morality in human culture generally and in the classical religious traditions in particular.

Secondary objectives arising from learning activities; to develop:

1. reading and analytical skills arising from close readings of assigned texts (in-class as well as pre-class preparation)
2. skills in contributing to group discussion and advancing thought about a common focus (in class and in blackboard virtual discussions)
3. writing (organization and development of an argument; efficient editing strategies; critical penetration skills) and thinking skills arising from group discussion

Weekly class activities

1. reading and reflecting on the assigned readings (preparation, prior to class, and in class)
2. group discussion of the readings (in class and in blackboard virtual discussions)
3. written responses to set questions arising from the assigned readings (in class)

Evaluation

1. (30%) in-class discussion participation (active learning [20%] and attendance [10%]); assessed weekly
2. (35%) focused written critical reflections arising from the assigned weekly readings. Following the in-class discussion or a reading or lecture presentation students will write a compressed, focused response to one or two provided questions.

3. (35%) written contributions to the Blackboard discussion forums. Discussions are aimed at advancing collaborative learning about these religions. Participation in online discussions require two parts each week:
 - a) a response to one of the posted discussion questions; b) two or more follow-up responses to an unfolding discussion thread. Perfunctory follow-ups such as "I agree" or "ditto" do not move understanding forward and so cannot count toward the participation component of assessment. Examples of acceptable participation:
 1. expressing opinions or observations. These should be offered in some depth and should be supported by evidence arising from posted course materials.
 2. making a connection between a current and prior discussion questions or posted course materials.
 3. commenting on a prior point in the weekly discussion thread
 4. synthesizing prior points and adding a question or point that advances the understanding evolving in the discussion thread.

**There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course.*

Grading scale

A+ >96; A >90; A- >85; B+ >80; B >75; B- >70; C+ >65; C >60; C- >55; D+ >50; D >45; F <44.
A+ >96; A >90; A- >85; B+ >80; B >75; B- >70; C+ >65; C >60; C- >55; D+ >50; D >45; F <44.

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/bbbs_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 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 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 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.