

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Rels 343.01

Religion and Social Morality

August 7, 2007

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2007

Logistics	Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:15
	Location:	SS 105
	Instructor:	Dr. David A. Bergen
	Office Hours:	SS 1304 Tues and Thurs, 1:00 - 2:00 (or by appointment)
	Telephone:	220-5612
	Email:	dabergen@ucalgary.ca
	Website:	http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dabergen/
	Textbooks:	Joseph, Jonathon <i>Social Theory: A Reader</i> (Edinburgh University Press) 2005, ISBN: 0748619488.
		PDF and HTML materials posted on the course website

**Course
Description**

In the first part of the course students will be introduced to the prominent social theories of Marx, Gramsci, Durkheim, Weber, the Frankfurt School, and Foucault. As a counterpoint to these constructionist social theories, students will also encounter recent theorizings on society by evolutionary psychologists. Throughout the term, questions related to the configuration of religion and/in society will be explored.

**Core
Competencies**

This course promotes the following academic competencies:

- Understanding of the constructed nature of human societies.
- Awareness of the evolutionary biological/psychological roots of social constructions.
- Skill in reading and interpreting primary theoretical materials on topics dealing with society and religion.
- Development of written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to critically assess religion from an academic perspective.

Student Responsibilities

- Attendance of lectures
- Comprehension and engagement of presented materials
- Conceptual control of basic facts, concepts, and issues
- Study of assigned readings

Learning Assessment

First Essay (either Marx, Gramsci, or Durkheim—due Oct 9)	25%
Second Essay (either Weber, the Frankfurt School, or Foucault—due Nov 15)	25%
Class Summary Presentations (see schedule)	25%
In-Class Exam (Dec 6)	25%
	Total: 100%

* *There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course*

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Assignments and Tests:** tests and assignments must be written/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). The instructor must be contacted within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.
- **Essays:** the essay component (5 to 6 pages) will involve the analysis of a significant contemporary social event from the perspective of a social theory/theorist selected by the student. The specific event(s) to be critiqued will be assigned by the instructor. (The format requirements for essay writing will be presented early in the term.)
- **In-Class Summary Presentations:** Students will be assigned on a rotation basis the task of summarizing and commenting on the readings scheduled each day. (The schedule of assigned readings and student presenters will be handed out in the first week of the term. Likewise, the format requirements for the summary presentations will also be discussed in the first week.)
- given the nature of the subject and the approaches adopted, it is vital that students attend the first week of class to gain an understanding of the nature and methodology involved.
- students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- students must maintain “back up” copies of all submissions; no concessions will be made for “lost” materials.
- students are encouraged to discuss the course materials with the instructor. An appointment can be set up for this purpose, either verbally or through email. When arranging to see the instructor, students are asked to be specific in terms of the issues or topics they wish to discuss.

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84-80	C+ 69-65	D+ 54-53
A 95-90	B 79-75	C 64-60	D 52-50
A- 89-85	B- 74-70	C- 59-55	F under 50

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

Academic Honesty	<i>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.</i>
Important Dates	Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the current University Calendar.
Academic Accommodation	If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.
Course Withdrawal	Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar
Lecture Recording	Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.
Safewalk Program	"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!
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 .