

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

RELS 343 L01

Religion and Social Morality

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2011

Logistics

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Location: SH 268

Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen
dabergen@ucalgary.ca
403-220-7063

Office Hours (SS 1308): Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am

Textbooks: *By the Grace of Guile: The Role of Deception in Natural History and Human Affairs* – Loyal Rue

Do Morals Matter? – Ian Markham

Selling Spirituality: The Silent Takeover of Religion – Carrette and King

CBS Survivor, Nicaragua 2 (2011)

Additional PDF materials posted in Blackboard, “Course Documents.”

Course Description

This course defines social morality as “*a (hide and seek) game of getting, a game that is internalized through socialization, modified through experience, driven by desire.*” In exploring this most serious of games, we will focus on key concepts that are prevalent in moral discourse. We will also describe and analyze the presence and function of *deception* within social systems. The data for our discussions will range from the animal world to our own classroom, from global scenarios to local situations, with frequent assessments of that most deceptive of human inventions: religion.

Learning Assessment

Three equally-weighted midterm tests (February 1, March 8, March 29)	45%
Experiential Group-Work Project	45%
Participation – 25%	
Written Analysis (due April 14) – 20%	
In-class Essay Exam (April 14)	10%
	Total: 100%

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

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 *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.*

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 403-220-8237. 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 403-220-5333 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>.

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.