

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Rels 343.01

Religion and Social Morality

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

Place and Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2:00-2:50. ES 054

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

Office hours: Monday, 1:00-2:00

Textbooks: *By the Grace of Guile: The Role of Deception in Natural History and Human Affairs* (Loyal Rue); *Do Morals Matter?* (Ian Markham); *Social Theory: A Reader* (Jonathan Joseph, ed).

Electronic Materials: CBS America *Survivor, Cagayan* (28th Season); Additional PDF materials posted in Blackboard, “Course Documents.”

Description and Objectives: This course defines social morality as “a (*hide-and-seek, give-and-take*) game with perceived high stakes, an enterprise internalized through socialization, modified through experience, fuelled by desire.” In exploring this most serious game, we will focus on key concepts prevalent in the discourse of morality (Markham), we will describe and analyze the presence and function of *deception* within social systems (Rue), and we will explore the thought of some prominent social theorists, in particular, critical assessments of competitive capitalist economic regimes (Joseph). 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 invention, religion.

Assessments:

The learning assessments for this course will be comprised of three components, the value (20% - 50%) of each to be determined by the student no later than Wednesday, January 22. (A passing grade in any one component is not required to pass RELS 343.)

Two Equally-Weighted Tests (Feb 10 and Apr 14) 20-50%
Second test will be take-home, to be submitted on Friday, April 18th at 12:00pm.

Group Projects 20-50%
Beginning the third week of the term, each Friday class will be devoted to group projects, the details of which will be explained in the first week of class. NOTE: *all students will be assessed solely on their individual contributions to their group projects.*

Essay (Apr 4) 20-50%
An eight-page essay that will analyze a specific question relevant to the topic of “social morality” as developed in this course.

Combined Total: 100%

Default Grade Weighting: In the absence of a signed contract by the stipulated due date, the default weighting for the tests and essay will be 30% each, and the group project 40%.

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

Grading Scale:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

Missed Assessments:

Tests (and assignments) must be written or 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 student should contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline. If a student anticipates an absence s/he should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; *no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.*

Student Expectations:

- *enter* in their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in Blackboard);
- *read* thoroughly the assigned pages prior to each weekly test (see schedule posted in Blackboard, Course Information);
- *participate* meaningfully in class discussions;
- *contribute* substantively to group projects;
- *check* regularly and frequently for email messages and the Blackboard site for updates, changes, and announcements;
- *study* hard, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of textbook material.
- *save* all submissions; no concessions will be made for papers purportedly “lost” by yourself or the instructor.

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 Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.