

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

RELS 343 L01:
Religion and Social Morality

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:00-12:50

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

Office hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 in SS540

Textbooks: *Do Morals Matter?* (Ian S. Markham) and *The Biology of Moral Systems* (Richard D. Alexander).

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 within the discourse of morality (Markham) while exploring the moral implications of modern social situations. Students will also have the option in this course of investigating the biological roots of human moral systems (Alexander).

Assessments:

Five Equally-Weighted Tests

January 28, February 12, March 4 and 18, April 1 70%

Research Project

30%

Students will write an 8-10 page essay that will utilize course discussions and materials to analyze an issue of moral consequence and/or relevance within our contemporary society. This research project will be due on April 13.

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

Student Responsibilities:

Attend, Understand, Analyze—three fundamental academic tasks.

Details:

Please note these important details:

- no remedial assignments are available in this course;
- lecture notes will not be available from the instructor;
- exams must be 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). You must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline. The University Calendar states:
“It is the responsibility of students who have prolonged absences from class because of physical and/or emotional health problems to present to the faculty office offering the course a statement from a physician/counselor attesting to the physical or emotional health of the student.”
- tests are non-cumulative and will entail typical academic testing formats. The assessments employed will be geared to rewarding students who are conscientious in their attendance, participation, and preparation of classes;
- a passing grade on any of the graded components is not essential for passing the course;
- the use of electronic devices is banned from this course during class time, except in instances where the instructor grants permission for pedagogical purpose;
- take-home tests submitted after deadline on the due date will be penalized 5% for every day (or part thereof) overdue.
- there is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course;

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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.) If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L.

Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@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 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.