

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies
Fall 2013 Course Outline**

RELS 348 L01: Religion, Empire & Colonialism

Block Week: Sept. 3-7 TWRFS, 9:00am-5:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Clara A.B. Joseph

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Phone: (403) 220-4232

Office Hours: 5:00-6:00pm during Block Week

After September 8: Tuesdays 10:50-11:50am and by appointment

Course Description and Goals:

This course is our opportunity to study the relationship between religion and the politics of ruthless profit as it is traced in religious and secular texts, discussed by scholars, and captured in documentaries and in award-winning movies. Beginning with pre-colonial times, we will consider the various faces of religion and profit in the events of colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. Topics will include: Scripture and Empire, Secularism and Empire, Colonialism and Globalization, Indigenous Communities and Empire, and Justice & the Kingdom. The aim of the course is certainly to inculcate enthusiasm for higher studies in one of the most politically contested aspects of Religious Studies, the goal is also to enhance transferable skills in critical thinking, academic research and writing, editing, team-playing, and oral communication.

Required Textbooks:

Course pack

Ashcroft, Bill et. al. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*. 3rd ed. Routledge, 2013

Additional readings, including both creative and critical texts, will be available on Blackboard through persistent links from electronic resources.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Assignment # 1 is a critical response to a critical article and a creative text from the reading list. This assignment is worth **40%** of your grades in this course. The assignment will consist of the following:

- a) A 100 word proposal. The proposal will identify the primary source – an article and a creative or cultural text – and present the topic of your essay, the thesis or the essential/central argument in your critique of the primary sources, and an overview of how you will arrive at your thesis. A tentative bibliography that includes at least two articles as secondary sources from the reading list should be appended to the proposal (due before midnight on Sept 4)
- b) A 1500 word essay based on the above proposal (due before midnight on September 6)

- c) A 15 minute presentation of the essay to the class on September 7

Students will have the opportunity to accomplish the tasks in teams. The presentation should not be a word for word reading of the essay. Instead, the presentation can take creative forms and is the opportunity for the presenter to communicate to as well as engage the class. Mid-term grades are normally returned within two weeks of the due date.

Assignment # 2 is a Registrar scheduled examination, worth **45%** of your grades. The exam will consist of objective type and essay questions and will be scheduled during the Fall 2013 final exam period, December 9-19.

Participation grade is **15%**

While marks will be deducted for any distractive behaviour in class, marks will be awarded for the following:

1. Evidence of responsible reading of assigned readings.
2. Taking intelligible notes during lectures, presentations, and discussions.
3. Regular and quality submission of in-class assignments.
4. Active and quality participation in discussions and group activities.
5. Successful participation in random quizzes and debates based on lecture material and the readings.
6. Initiative in bringing to the attention of the class relevant popular and academic information.
7. Ability to interact with the class in a professional and enthusiastic manner.

NOTE:

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

There will be a Registrar Scheduled Exam in this course.

Late assignment policy: Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

Assignments must be emailed as a Word document to the instructor at cjoseph@ucalgary.ca before midnight of the due date. The file name must be according to the following format: for example, LastnameFirstname_RELS348Essay_Sept6-2013. Students must always copy themselves on any assignment emailed to the instructor, and save the item until final results are received from the registrar's office. If in doubt of the procedure, it is the responsibility of the student to check with the instructor well in advance. **DO NOT SEND THE ASSIGNMENT TO OR VIA BLACKBOARD.**

Grading system

The following grading system is used in this course:

96 - 100% A+	90 - 95% A	85 - 89% A-
80 - 84% B+	75 - 79% B	70 - 74% B-
65 - 69% C+	60 - 64% C	55 - 59% C-
53 - 54% D+	50 - 52% D	0 - 49% F

Actual numerical grades obtained, not their letter grade or percentage equivalent, will be used in calculating the final grade. Letter grades for assignments will be converted into numerical values using the scale above (at the instructor's discretion) in order to calculate the final course grade.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Block week courses: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

- The last day to drop a Block Week course (without it appearing on the student's transcript) shall be the end of the first day of lectures.
- The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course shall be the final day of lectures during the Block Week.
- Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.
- Final examinations for credit Block Week courses will be held during the regular examination period at the end of the term.

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

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.

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 at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space 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.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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>.