

**University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts - Department of Religious Studies**  
**Winter Term 2015**  
**RELS 348-01 Religion, Empire, and Colonialism**

<b>Instructor</b>	Irving Hexham
<b>Class time and room</b>	TR 12:30-13:45 ST 541
<b>Office/office hours</b>	SS 538, T 11-12 pm, or by appointment.
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**Course description:**

This course discusses the relationship between religion and empire by examining colonialism and imperialism in both theory and practice. It uses examples from African, Asian, European and North American history to understand the rise and development of different forms of traditional society, colonial and imperial ventures and theoretical approaches taken to these topics. Missionary religions and secular ideologies are examined alongside theories of post-colonialism and related issues such as post-modernism and the development of critical theories.

**Course competencies:**

At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- a) Discuss in an informed manner religion, empire and colonialism
- b) Critically evaluate books religion, empire, and colonialism
- c) think critically about the issues raised by this topic
- d) appreciate the importance of using correct academic methods intelligently;
- e) be able to make informed judgment about the reliability of specific books and texts

**Required Textbooks:**

Robert Irwin, *The Lust of Knowing: The Orientalists and their Enemies*

Kris Manjapra, *M.N. Roy: Marxism and Colonial Cosmopolitanism*

RELS 341.01 New Religious Movements

Uwe Siemon-Netto, *Triumph of the Absurd*

**Other readings**

In addition to reading all the textbooks students are encouraged to read as widely as possible. A list of lecture topics and additional readings will be provided at the beginning of the course.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
<b>Mini-Blogs</b>		
31 January	First mini-Blog due	15%
28 February	Second mini-Blog due	15%
31 March	Third mini-Blog due	15%
15 March	First Assignment	25%
15 April	Second Assignment	25%
Class participation		5%

**First mini-Blog worth 15% of the Final Grade**

This is intended to engage you with a current issue related to the study of religion and enable you to see the significance the study of religion in today's world. For this assignments you must write a mini blog.

For the first part of the assignment you must find a good news story about a religion, empire, and/or colonialism. Then you must write, but not post, the text of a 350 word mini-blog that discusses the news story in terms of the issues studied in this course.

You do not post the Mini-Blog. What you do is write it up as Word document that you send by email attachment to the email address:

[religion348@gmail.com](mailto:religion348@gmail.com)

N.B. You will also use this email address for submitting your two other assignments.

On the top of the assignment you write your name and student number. Then give yourself a Web name that can be used when the Blog is posted to the Web. We suggest you use your first name, a nickname, or your initials so that you cannot be identified by other readers. In this way Professor Hexham and his TA will be able to identify your Blog after they post it.

After we receive the text of the mini-Blog we will check it for problems and if approved post it to the Web. If it is not approved it will be returned to you for revision.

Once you see that your mini-Blog is posted on the course website we encourage you to send out a Tweet to tell the world about your blog post. You should post it to Twitter using the hashtag: #uwrels. The mini-blog to will be posted on the Web to the blog site at:

<http://uwreligions.wordpress.com/author/uwreligions/>

**Second mini-Blog - worth 15% of the Final Grade**

For this assignment you repeat the process followed for the first assignment using a different news story.

**Third mini-Blog - worth 15% of the Final Grade**

For this assignment you repeat the process followed for the first assignment using a different news story.

**Rubric:**

A mini-Blog Rubric will be posted on D2L

**Optional involvement:**

Once the Blogs are posted you are encouraged to engage with the material by sending out a Tweet about your mini-Blog and writing a comment on one of the Blogs other than the one you posed. To do this go to the blog site listed above and read through the blogs for this course. Then choose one to comment on.

You write your comment on the blog on the blog site itself and we simply approve it if it is not libellous.

**Explanation of the procedure followed:**

The reason for sending copies of the mini-Blog in a Word document to the course email is to allow us to mark them because on the blog site you are to remain anonymous.

In writing your Mini-Blogs and comments be respectful and do not slander anyone. Remember these can be read by anyone with Internet access which is why they are anonymous except for the identifying name you give yourself.

**First assignment:**

Write an essay of around ten pages on one of the issues raised by this course in which you incorporate material from all three of the textbooks.

**Final assignment:**

Prepare a Power Point presentation about the topic you discussed when you wrote your first assignment. In creating you presentation, only use pictures that are in the public domain. Therefore, you need to take them from places like Wiki Commons and check that they are available under a creative commons licence.

**N.B.** Unless you object in writing your essay and Power Point presentation will be posted anonymously to a special section of the course website at:

<http://understandingworldreligions.com/>

These web postings will contain your initials but not your name and will be available for others to read and use under a creative commons copyright license. This process will be explained in more detail in class.

**N.B. A detailed lecture schedule, list of recommended weekly readings to D2L at the beginning of the first week of term.**

- \* Late assignments, including blogs, must be accompanied by a valid medical note.
- \* N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

### **Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

Test results will be posted on D2L.

### **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, or librarian staff.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. 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.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.