

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

**RELS 349.01 – RELIGION AND POLITICS
FALL TERM 2015**

Instructor: Irving Hexham
Class time: TR 12.30-13.45
Office hours: SS 538, T 11-12, or by appointment.
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Course description and outline:

A study of the complex relationship between religion and politics. This includes discussions of nationalism and political religions. Topics may include the origin of apartheid in South Africa, Black Theology, the rise of the New Christian Right in America, Hindu and Islamic political movements, and various forms of Fascism including the Nazi movement.

Organization of the course:

The lectures will concentrate on Afrikaner Nationalism and German National Socialism. Students will be asked to research aspects of the interaction between religion and politics in other cultural settings.

Teaching/Learning Style:

This is a traditional university course that emphasizes reading and individual research by the student.

Core competencies

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

- a) appreciate the relationship between religion and politics
- b) understand why some scholars, like Eric Voegelin, Roger Griffin and Emilio Gentile, talk about “political religions.”
- c) think critically about religious and political arguments
- d) appreciate the importance of concepts like myth in the discussion of politics and religion
- e) make informed judgments about specific instances where religions impacts politics.

Textbook:

John de Gruchy, *Church Struggle in South Africa*

Other required course readings that can be downloaded as a pdf files:

Michael Freeden, "Thinking politically and thinking ideologically," in *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 2008, 13, 1:1-10. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Chiara Bottici and Benoit Charlland, "Rethinking Political Myth," In *European Journal of Social Theory* Vol. 9, 3:315-336. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, "On Civil Religion," found on the course readings website at: http://understandingworldreligions.com/course_readings.html

Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America," *Daedalus*, Vol. 96, 1:1-21. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Emilio Gentile, "Political Religion: A Concept and its Critics," in *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Vol 6, No1, 19-32, June 2005. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Clement Vidal, "What is a worldview?" and "World Views: From fragmentation to integration," downloadable as a pdf file from:

http://cogprints.org/6094/2/Vidal_2008-what-is-a-worldview.pdf

<http://www.vub.ac.be/CLEA/pub/books/worldviews.pdf>

Irving Hexham, "Dutch Calvinism and the Development of Afrikaner Nationalism," in *African Affairs Journal of the Royal Africa Institute*, 1980, Vol. 79, No.315:195-208.

_____. "Just like another Israel," *Religion*, 1977, Vol. 7, No. 1:1-17. Available from the course site on D2L.

Karla Poewe, "Scientific neo-paganism and the extreme right then and today: From Ludendorff's *Gotterkenntnis* to Sigrud Hunke's *Europas Eigene religion*," in *The Journal of Contemporary Religion*, Vol. 14, No. 3:387-400.

Ernest Sternberg, "Purifying the World: What the New Radical Ideology Stands For," in *Orbis*, the journal of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, Winter 2010:61-86

Danny Orbach, "Tyrannicide in Radical Islam: The Case of Syyyid Qutb and Adb al-Salam Faraj," in *Middle Eastern Studies*, 2012, 48, 6:961-972

Brian Daizen Victoria, "D.T. Suzuki, Zen and the Nazis," in *The Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 2013, Vol. 11, No 4, and "A Zen Nazi in Wartime Japan: Count Dürkheim and his Sources: D.T. Suzuki, Yasutani Haku#un and Eugen Herrigel," in *The Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, 2014, Vol 12, No. 2.

Supplementary course readings.

Michael Freeden, “Practicing Ideology and Ideological Practices,” in *Political Studies*, 2000, Vol. 48:302-322. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Jorge Larraín, “Stuart Hall and the Marxist Concept of Ideology,” in *Theory Culture Society*, 1981:8:1. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Emilio Gentile, “Fascism,, Totalitarianism and Political Religion: Definitions and Critical Reflections on Criticism of an Interpretation,” in *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, pp. 326-366. Available in eBook format from the UofC Library.

Roger Griffin, “Cloister or Cluster? The Implications of Emilio Gentile’s Ecumenical Theory of Political Religion for the Study of Extremism,” in *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Vol 6, No1, 19-32, June 2005. From the UofC Library – online journals.

Abraham Kuyper, “Calvinism as a Life System,” this is chapter one of Kuyper’s *Stone Lectures* delivered at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1898. The book can be found online at:

<http://www.archive.org/stream/calvinismsixstonny00kuyper/page/n3/mode/2up>

Albert M. Wolters “On the Idea of Worldview and its relation to Philosophy,” in Paul Marshal ed. *Stained Glass*. The article can be found online at:

<http://www.allofliferedeemed.co.uk/Wolters/AMVWorldviews.pdf>

Online resources for this course:

The website www.understandingworldreligions.com provides extensive supporting materials for this course.

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required
Blogs			
27 September	First mini-Blog	15%	
25 October	Second mini-Blog	15	
29 November	Third mini-Blog	15%	
Tests			
15 October	First test	25%	
19 November	Second test	30%	
No final exam			

Tests:

There are two multiple choice tests in this course. Both are based on the lectures and course readings. The first test is worth 25% of the final grade. The second test is worth 30% of the final grade. This makes the tests worth 55% of the final grade.

Assignment mini-Blogs:

For this course you must write three mini-blogs. Each blog is worth 15% of the final grade making the blogs worth 45% of the final grade.

The object of this assignment is to engage you with a current issue related to the study of religion and the criticism of religion as well as enabling you to see the significance the study of religion in today's world. For this you must write three mini-Blogs according to the following format. Instructions for writing the blogs will be discussed in class and posted on D2L. These blogs will be posted anonymously on the course blogsite at: <https://uwreligions.wordpress.com/>

Grading:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content. A rubric for the blog assignments will be posted on D2L.

Policy with regard to assignments: students must take tests on the assigned day, have a valid medical note, or prove exceptional circumstances. Late papers are accepted, but will be automatically deducted 10% per day that they are overdue. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note or other external evidence to show that this is necessary.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Attendance: students are expected to attend most lectures.

Class etiquette: remember you are not the only student in the class. Please make every effort to arrive on time and not to leave before the class ends. You are expected to pay attention to the lecture and not distract other students.

Computers and other devices: while attending class the wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor can computers be used for watching videos or playing computer games. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes.

Recording lectures: for copyright reasons recording any part of any lectures in any form, including through a computer, is not permitted. Nor will the power point slides or lecture notes be posted on the web for the same reason. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. All of these restrictions are

due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced. Some power point slides, i.e. those that do not include limited use materials, will be posted to D2L. It is your responsibility to pay attention and make your own lecture notes.

Syllabus: a complete syllabus will be made available on the course website during the first week of term.

Final examination: there will be no Registrar scheduled final examination.

Electronic Device Policy: recent evidence shows that students who use computers in class learn significantly less than those who write their own notes. You are encouraged to write your own notes. The wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor can computers to be used for watching videos or playing computer games. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes.

Recording of lectures: recording any part of any lectures in any form, including through a computer, is not permitted without a note from a doctor or Student Accessibility Services. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. These restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

Academic honesty:

Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic honesty. See University Calendar, p. 51. See also:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/study/plag.html>

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.

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>.

Classics Student Society

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

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.