

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

Course: RELS 349.01: RELIGION AND POLITICS
Time: TR 2-3.15
Instructor: Irving Hexham
TA(s): TBA
Office: SS 1310
Office Hours: T 1-1.45 or by appointment
E-mail: relgion349@gmail.com
Telephone: 403-220-3280

Required Text(s):

Jonathan Fox *An Introduction to Religion and Politics*

Optional Text(s):

Supporting materials can be found on the website:

<http://www.understandingworldreligions.com/>

In particular students are encouraged to make use of the *Concise Dictionary of Religion* which is available as a free pdf download from:

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/books.html>

Course Description:

Throughout history religion and politics are closely inter-twined. However, during the twentieth century this complex relationship was increasingly dismissed by the media and political scientists as a result of a confidence in the spread of secularization and the demise of religion. Since the turn of this century no one can doubt that a resurgence in the social role of religion is taking place. This course seeks to investigate the complex relationship between religion and politics and foster an appreciation of the dynamic interaction between religious and political beliefs and movements. At the end of the course students ought to be able to discuss questions relating to religion and politics in an intelligent manner.

Online elements for this course:

Web Site <http://www.understandingworldreligions.com/>

Student Mini Blog <http://uwreligions.wordpress.com/>

Core Competencies:

- 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.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA	Mini-Blog	15
TBA	Presentation	20
TBA	Comments on Blogs	10
February 11	Book review	20
April 10	Research Paper	35

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 Religious Studies:

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.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

* Students must take the test 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 of necessity; i.e., if you are allowed to write the test at a later date, the penalty will be 10% for each day that passes between the original date of the exam and the date on which it is written.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Power Point slides

Due to copyright restrictions not all power point slides can be posted to the web. Those that do not include limited us materials will be posted to:

http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/power_point_slides_uwr.html

It is your responsibility to pay attention and write down any relevant information or your own comments. This must be done during 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. In other words concentrate on your studies and do not disturb other students.

MP3 Computers and other devices: While attending class the wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor are 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. 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. These restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Religious Studies uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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.

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/bbls_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.