

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

Course RELS 363 – *Comparative Philosophy of Religion*
Time TR 3:30-4:45
Instructor K. Froese
TA(s)
Office SS 1328
Office Hours T 1:30-2:30
E-mail froese@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 403-220-3282

Required Text(s)

Plato, *The Republic*
 Augustine, *The Essential Augustine*
The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War
Daodejing: A Philosophical Translation
 Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason*

Additional material will be available on blackboard.

Course Description

This course examines some fundamental philosophical and religious questions from a variety of perspectives, drawing upon Western and Eastern traditions. The course is not intended as a survey of these systems of thought but rather aims to encourage cross-cultural comparisons of metaphysical, ethical, and religious ideas.

Online elements for this course (if any) Some readings will be on Blackboard

Core Competencies

Emphasis will be placed on developing analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to engage with these texts in order to reflect on some of the prevailing assumptions of contemporary societies.

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
February 13, 2014	Mid-term exam	40.00%*	Yes
April 3, 2014	In-class exam	10.00%	Yes
April 8, 2014	Final Paper (8-10 pages) paper topics to be handed out in class	50.00%	Yes

*You may choose to count the exam for which you receive the highest grade for 40% and the other

midterm for 10%. In other words, if your grade for the final in-class exam is higher than that of the midterm, you may count that for 40%.

There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.

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

Paper topics will be distributed in class and will require students to engage in a cross-cultural comparison by drawing on Western and Eastern works. Late papers will be graded down at a rate of 3% a day. The paper can be handed in at any time during the semester prior to the deadline. The late deadline allows those students writing on works discussed later in the semester to attend the lectures on these books before handing in their paper. Having other assignments and tests due at this time will not be sufficient reason for extension. You have the option of handing the paper in earlier and choosing a topic that allows you to do so.

The in-class exams **MUST** be written on the date specified. Make-up tests will only be granted under *exceptional* circumstances and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation such as a doctor's note.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Students will be expected to attend classes and are encouraged strongly to participate in class discussions. I do not do make-up lectures for missed classes, nor do I distribute lecture notes therefore it is your responsibility to borrow notes off another student if you miss a class.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

TBA the first day of class.

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.

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 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.