

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

Course: RELS 367.05 L01
Comparative Studies in Western Religions: Sufis, Rabbis and Nuns
Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Instructor: Dr. Rachel Schmidt
Office Hours MW 10-10:50
Office SS 504
E-mail: rlschmid@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: 403-220-6383

Required Text(s):

Ibn al-Arabi. *The Bezels of Wisdom*. Trans. Ralph Austin. Paulist Press.
Moses de León. *Zohar, Book of Enlightenment*. Trans. Daniel Matt. Paulist Press.
Teresa de Cartagena. *The Writings of Teresa de Cartagena*. Trans. Dayle Seidenspinner-Nuñez. Boydell and Brewer.
Teresa de Avila. *Interior Castle*. Trans. E. Allison Peers. Dover Thrift Editions.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Medieval and early-modern Spanish mysticism in the three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam).

Online elements for this course:

Some additional texts and course materials will be made available to the students through the D2L site.

Core Competencies:

The student will understand the basic tenets of mystical thought and practice as expressed in Jewish, Christian and Islamic communities living in and/or originating from al-Andalus and/or the Christian Iberian medieval kingdoms. They will understand the historical and sociological contexts for these mystical traditions, as well as the interactions that took place between them. They will also be introduced to the study of poetry and other sorts of mystical texts based on the analysis of figurative/symbolic language as well as theological content. They will be asked to write a research paper analyzing an original text and taking into account secondary criticism.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Oct. 2	Exam 1—in class	20%	Required
Oct. 28	Exam 2—in class	20%	Required
Handed out on Dec. 2, handed in on Dec. 4	Exam 3—take home	20%	Required
Nov. 18	Research paper proposal	5%	Required
Dec. 8	Research paper, 12-13 pages including bibliography	35%	Required

There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for 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 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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

5% will be deleted from the grade for each day that the assignment is handed in late except in the case that a valid medical excuse is presented to the professor.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Students are expected to come prepared to class each day having read the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it. It is expected that students will treat each other and the professor with civility and respect.

Electronic Device Policy:

Students are not allowed to use computers or hand-held digital devices such as cell-phones in this class. Recording of class is not allowed.

Syllabus:

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

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion 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, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodation

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

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us 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 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.