

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2017

Course	RELS 367.7: Comparative Studies in Western Religions (Interpreting Scripture)
Time	MWF 12:00 – 12:50
Instructor	E. Segal
Office Hours	Monday 12:50 or by appointment
Office	SS 548
E-mail	eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403.220.3279

Required Text

Szpiech, Ryan. *Medieval Exegesis and Religious Difference: Commentary, Conflict, and Community in the Premodern Mediterranean*. Fordham University Press, 201

Course Description:

This course will explore different ways in which the communities of the “Abrahamic” religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) have interpreted their respective sacred scriptures (Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur’an) as sources of continuing inspiration that allow believers to accommodate diverse spiritual approaches.

Some of the interpretative approaches that will be:

- literal-philological
- homiletical and rhetorical (sermons, etc.)
- allegorical
- mystical

The course will also examine (largely via the essays in the Szpiech collection) some instances in which scholars from one religion examined the scriptures of another one.

Online elements for this course:

Samples of exegetical texts (in English translation) and some secondary studies will be posted on the course D2L site. A schedule of the assigned readings will be made available early in the term.

Core Competencies:

Through the prism of scriptural interpretation, this course intends to cultivate some central principles of humanities scholarship—in particular, the ability to understand texts in their original contexts, and to appreciate how the act of interpretation involves subtle interplays between the author and the exegete.

Diverse varieties of religious meaning will be explored from historical and textual perspectives, and with reference to assorted manners of spiritual expression.

Students are expected to analyze the material critically and to express their findings in a clear and logical manner.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
To be chosen by the student.	12 short (about 250 words) personal responses to class reading assignments to be submitted prior to the class in question. A D2L dropbox will be set up to submit the responses.	50%
March 27, 2017	Research proposal with preliminary bibliography.	10%
April 12, 2017	Major research essay (approx. 3,000 words), applying theories learned in the course.	40%

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination 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, usually used 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.

Electronic Device Policy:

Although respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed, if students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only (i.e., under normal circumstances: never). Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

Syllabus:

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

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 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.

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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

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.