

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014**

**Course** RELS 373.10 L01: Topics in Religious Studies (Religion and Music)  
**Time** MW 15:30 - 16:45 SA 147  
**Instructor** Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD  
**Office Hours** MW 2:00-3:00  
**Office** SS 502  
**E-mail** [cwcginn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cwcginn@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 403-220-5612

**Required Text(s):**

*Te Deum: The Church and Music.* Paul Westermeyer. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1998.

*The Spirituals and the Blues.* James H. Cone. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1972.

*One Step Closer: Why U2 Matters to Those Seeking God.* Christian Scharen. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2006.

**Course Description:**

Music has been and continues to be one of the most important elements of religious experience, ritual and expression. From the earliest musical traditions to contemporary ‘religious radio’, music has been part of how people experience and shape their worlds, including how they have understood their relationships to the immanent and transcendent. From Bach to Bono, music has also been a deliberate mode of thinking about or constructing religion.

This course will explore the intersection of religion and music in western culture with attention to Judaism and the Jewish music tradition and emphasis upon Christianity and the Christian music tradition. We will consider how music engages with religion, illustrating the issues and questions involved through listening to recorded and/or live performances.

The course will begin with an inquiry into the nature of music and religion, and a brief historical-doctrinal overview of Judaism and Christianity. Subsequent lectures will examine the composition and functionality of music within religion (and religion within music) in Israelite psalmody, the choir tradition of the Therapeutae, New Testament hymns, canticles, early Christian chant, songs and mysticism, oratorio, metrical psalters, Protestant hymnody, slave songs/African-American spirituals, contemporary Christian music, and spiritual themes in popular music.

Students will be introduced to various lenses of investigation including philosophical (the nature of music), musicological (the role of music), doxological (music in worship), theological (creedal expression in lyrics), liturgiological (music in liturgy), and phenomenological (music and spiritual experience).

**Online elements for this course:**

Supplemental course materials will be posted on D2L.

**Core Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- the study of religion and music as academic subjects
- the philosophical inquiry into the nature and spirituality of western music
- the place awarded music in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament
- the functional canonicity of texted music
- the relation between musical expression and religious experience
- theological analysis to assess religious meanings in texted music
- the relationship between music and belief (*lex orandi lex credendi*)
- hermeneutical analysis of songs and song writers (operant hermeneutic)
- investigation of religion and music through various research lenses including philosophy, musicology, doxology, theology, liturgy, and phenomenology

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
October 1	Test #1 (based on lectures and <i>Te Deum</i> chapters 1-7)	10%
October 15	Guest Presentation Report and Analysis	20%
October 22	Test #2 (based on lectures and <i>Te Deum</i> chapters 10-13)	10%
November 17	Test #3 (based on lectures, <i>Te Deum</i> chapter 16, and study questions from <i>The Spirituals and the Blues</i> )	10%
November 26	Research Paper due	40%
December 3	Test #4 (based on lectures and study questions from <i>One Step Closer</i> )	10%

This course will not have a Registrar scheduled final examination.

**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:**

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Assignments submitted late will be deducted 15% per day.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

Practice courtesy toward fellow students. Respect the right of all students to contribute to discussion. Promote objective inquiry, refraining from remarks that attack or advocate religious beliefs.

**Expectations for email correspondence in this course:**

Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Inquiries related to tests or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline or scheduled test. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar and course outline for schedule information.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking notes. Do not use laptops during class for emailing, checking facebook, watching videos, etc. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of laptops or texting during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to the University Calendar Academic Regulations E.6, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." For further information please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

**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](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 the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.