

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

Course Religious Studies 373.12 L01: *Introduction to Sikhism*
Time MW 2:00-3:15
Instructor Dr. Michael Hawley
Office Hours by appointment
Office n/a
E-mail mhawley@mtroyal.ca
Telephone 403 220 5886 (Department Office)

Required Text(s)

Eleanor Nesbitt, *Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction*. London: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Margot Morthey, Bradford A. Anderson, and Joel N. Lohr, *Making Sense – Religious Studies: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Various readings posted on D2L

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the Sikhs. Over the course of the term we will examine the various ways in which Sikhs have understood themselves and their religious tradition. The course is organized roughly along historical lines. It traces the development of the Sikh community from the time of Guru Nanak in 15th century Punjab to the present day in the Canadian context. Woven into this historical approach are discussions of key issues and themes such as Sikh ways of life (practices and ethics), Sikh ways of knowing (philosophy), martyrdom and violence, gender, music, and Sikhs in public life. By the end of the course students should have an understanding of the important concepts, ideas, historical developments, issues, debates, and challenges relating to Sikhs and *Sikhism*.

Core Competencies

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a wide range of critical and practical skills necessary for reflective thinking and the communication of ideas. Over and above gaining an introductory knowledge of Sikh ways of knowing and being, this course challenges students to reflect upon and assess how we and those we study organize, live in, and relate to the world. It challenges students to identify and to call into question the presuppositions, central concepts, agendas, and cultural biases of both the scholar and the subjects of our inquiry. The analytical and self-reflective skills emphasized in this course will find application in the bulk of courses offered at the university as well as in life outside the academic setting.

Specifically, you will learn:

- key concepts and practices associated with Sikhism
- to identify and to read critically religious (primary) sources and scholarly writing
- skills necessary for researching and writing in religious studies, including basic fieldwork experience
- to critically question, utilize, and/or formulate analytical categories and/or typologies

- some of the basic methods and theories used in the academic study of religion

Course Requirements

Requirement	Weight	Date
Primary Source Analysis	10%	October 5
Article Summary and Review	20%	October 14
Research Proposal	10%	October 28
Gurdwara Visit Summary and Analysis	10%	November 9
In Class Test	20%	November 23
Research Project	30%	December 7

Grading

Course requirements and final grades will be reported by a **letter grade** corresponding to the 4.0 Scale. Course requirements and final grades will be calculated using the Grading System in the table below.

Letter	GPA	Description From Calendar
A+	4.0	<i>Excellent</i> – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A		
A-		
B+	3.3	<i>Good</i> – clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B	3.0	
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	<i>Satisfactory</i> – basic understanding of the subject matter.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	<i>Minimum Pass</i> – marginal performance, generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in same subject.
D	1.0	
F	0	<i>Fail</i> – unsatisfactory performance, or failure to complete assignments.

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Missed Tests

Test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed exams will be awarded an “F”.

Late Assignments

Late papers will be awarded a letter grade penalty (e.g. B+ to B) for each 24 hour period (or portion thereof). This includes weekends.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Let us all strive to make this classroom a safe and respectful place of ideas and learning. Let each of us demand of ourselves diligence and integrity, accountability and thoughtful reflection. Let us ensure we practice courtesy, fairness, and equality with respect to others.

Late Policy

Please be on time for class. While unforeseen circumstances may contribute to arriving late to class once over the course of the term, repeated lateness can quickly become an annoyance for everyone in the class. We all know what traffic and weather can be like in Calgary. We all know what parking can be like at the U of C. Plan accordingly.

Electronic Device Policy:

You are welcome to use your laptop in class to take notes. However, as a simple courtesy to the instructor and to others in the class, please do not use electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the 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 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.

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

- 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 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.