

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Classics and Religion

Religious Studies 377 L01

Fall 2016

Research and Critical Inquiry in Religious Studies

Block Week:

September 6-10

TWRFS 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Instructors:

Dr. Virginia Tumasz

Office: SS 506

Meetings by appointment during block week;
Sept 15-Oct. 13: R 10:00 – 11:00

Email: tumasz@ucalgary.ca

Ms. Sandra Lipton

Office: TFDL 530C

Meetings by appointment

Email: lipton@ucalgary.ca

Required Texts

READ BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS: William E. Paden. *Interpreting the Sacred: Ways of Viewing Religion*. (Available at University Bookstore.)

Kate L. Turabian et al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students*. (Available at University Bookstore.)

Additional readings will be assigned during Block Week and made available via D2L.

Core Competencies

If you apply yourself conscientiously, by the end of the course you should be able to:

- reflect critically on Religious Studies scholarship
- read academic texts more effectively
- formulate interesting research questions
- design a research plan
- locate, assess, and document sources of information and scholarship
- write according to the conventions of academic prose
- edit and revise your writing to produce an acceptable or even excellent essay.
- know what constitutes academic misconduct and how to avoid it.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the academic field of Religious Studies and offer practical instruction in research methods and academic writing. You will be introduced to a small sampling of the great variety of theories used in the academic study of religion. By the end of the course, you will have a better appreciation of the nature of academic scholarship, be able to conduct research efficiently and effectively, and write a respectable academic paper. The major assignment in the course will require you to formulate a research question \ and carry through a research project of your own.

The course will concentrate on the development of skills and habits of mind that are important in the academic study of religion. Paden's text will give you an overview of the interdisciplinary field of Religious Studies. Dr. Tumasz will give instruction in 1) effective reading, including the central skill of identifying the thesis and argument of a text, and 2) critical thinking, including the important habit of critically assessing the premises and presuppositions of scholarship on religion. She also will provide instruction in the development of effective research questions and writing processes, and familiarize you with the conventions of academic writing.

Ms. Lipton, the University's senior librarian of Religious Studies, will acquaint students with the myriad of resources available to Religious Studies students. She will provide intensive instruction in the tools and methods of scholarly research and help you develop the skills needed to effectively locate and evaluate information.

Course Requirements

1. Pre-session assignments

- 1) Read the entirety of Paden's book. There will be a quiz on the book on the **first day of class**. You can compose one sheet of notes (one-sided) for use during the quiz.
- 2) Complete the survey on "Information Seeking Behaviour" on D2L **before 9 a.m. of the first day of class**. Completion by the deadline is worth 1% of your final grade.
- 3) Complete "Preliminary Research Skills Quiz" on D2L **before 9 a.m. of the first day of class**. The quiz is not graded. Completion by the deadline is worth 1% of your final grade.

2. Block Week Assignments

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| 1) Paden quiz on first day of class | 10% |
| 2) Research Methods Exercises on D2L (ungraded) | 3% |
| 3) Book Review Assignment, due on Friday of Block Week | 10% |
| 4) Graded Research Skills quiz in class on last day | 15% |

Homework during Block Week:

- There will be reading assignments each night to which you will need to devote at least one hour.
- You are required to complete "Research Methods Exercises" on D2L on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, which will take less than a half hour. These are not graded. The completion of each exercise is worth 1% of the course grade; to receive the 1%, you must complete the exercises by the given deadlines.

3. Post-Block Week Assignments

- 1) Research Assignment – available on D2L; due Wednesday September 14. Submit paper copy to Department office (SS 5th floor) as well as electronically by D2L dropbox.

- 2) Meet with Sandra Lipton to go over your Research Assignment. A sign-up sheet will be circulated on the last day of class. Meeting times with Sandra will be available from September 20-30. You will receive a grade of zero for the research assignment if you do not attend the scheduled meeting.
- 3) Meet with Dr. Tumasz to go over a draft of the introduction to your research paper. Email Dr. Tumasz to schedule an appointment after your meeting with Ms. Lipton and before October 3. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a penalty of one full letter grade on your final paper.
- 4) Final research paper – due October 17 40%
- 5) Research Log (D2L) – due October 17 10%

*****Both the final research paper and the research log are due October 17.** Submit paper copy of both to Department office (SS 5th floor) as well as electronically by D2L dropbox.

Summary of course requirements:

Preliminary Skills Quiz (ungraded)	1%
Information Seeking Behavior Survey (ungraded)	1%
First day quiz on Paden	10%
Block Week Exercises, 1% each (ungraded)	3%
*Block Week Assignment	10%
Last day quiz on Research Skills	15%
*Research Assignment, due September 14	10%
*Research paper, due October 17	40%
*Research log, due October 17	10%

*Late penalty - Unless you receive a deferral from Dr. Tumasz or Ms. Lipton, late submission will result in a penalty of 10% of the worth of the assignment per day, including weekends.

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, 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.

Block Week course regulations

- The last day to drop a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the end of the first day of lectures.
- The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course is the final day of Block Week lectures.
- Final grades for Block Week courses will not be posted until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

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 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.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. 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.

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.

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.

