

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2014

Course: Religious Studies 377
Time: Block Week: RFSMT, 2-7 January 2014
Instructor: Dr. Tinu Ruparell, Ms. Sandra Lipton
TA(s): N/A
Office: SS1301; TFDL 530c
Office Hours: By appointment during block week, Dr. Ruparell
Thurs 13:00-14:00
E-mail: ruparell@ucalgary.ca; lipton@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: 403 2207069; 403 2203793

Required Text(s):

Pals, Daniel. *Eight Theories of Religion 2nd ed.* New York: OUP, 2006.

Course Workbook and Readings available on Blackboard

Optional Text(s):

Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition. Available at bookstore and online here:

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to theoretical and methodological considerations in the academic study of religion, as well as provide instruction in research methods and academic writing. A number of important theories concerning religion will be considered from which arise questions concerning the appropriate methods relevant to studying religion. The course will help students develop skills in critical evaluation of religious claims, practices and beliefs. Students will develop a research topic wherein they will be able to apply the skills and knowledge gained through the research methods and academic writing elements of the course.

Online elements for this course:

Workbook, quizzes and readings available on the Blackboard site for this course.

Core Competencies:

Engaged students in this class can expect to gain skills in research and academic writing, a greater understanding of the academic study of religion, as well as a more critical awareness of the methodological and theoretical issues which arise from its practice.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
January 2, 2014	Completion of Information Seeking Behavior Survey and Preliminary Research Quiz	2%	n/a
January 2-5, 2014	Research Methods Exercises	3%	n/a
January 7, 2014	Research Assignment	10%	n/a
January 7, 2014	Research Skills Quiz	10%	n/a
January 17 -February 7, 2014	Meeting with Sandra Lipton to discuss research assignment		Required: Pass/Fail (penalty will be -20% of total grade)
January 17th	Paper proposal/sources critique	20%	n/a
February 28, 2014	Research Log	10%	n/a
February 28, 2014	Final Research paper 2500-3k words	45%	n/a
(registrar scheduled)	There is no registrar-scheduled 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 Religious Studies:

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:

Assessment due dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'.

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This is a time intensive, block week course which requires students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and exercises will inform the grade for your paper and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. You will note that there is one necessary pass/fail element for the course in that you must make an appointment to see Ms Lipton between 17 January and 7 February 2014 to discuss your proposal. Failure to make and attend a consultation with her will result in a 20% penalty for the course.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

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 that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only. 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.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Religious Studies 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, 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 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here:

http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

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>.

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. 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.