

**University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
Course Outline, Winter 2012

Religious Studies 381 L01: Women and Religion

Course days and time

TR 2.00-3.15pm

Instructor

Dr. M. Joy

Office

SS1318

Office Hours

TR 3.30-4.30pm

E-mail

mjoy@ucalgary.ca

Telephone

403-220-7995

**Textbooks**

Leona M. Anderson and Pamela Dickey Young, Eds., *Women and Religious Traditions of the World*

Karma Lekshe Tsomo Ed., *Buddhist Women and Social Justice*

Shirin Ebadi, *Iran Awakening*

**Course description**

This course will undertake an investigation into the place of women in the various religious traditions of the world. The investigations will include both a historical survey of the way women have been regarded within these traditions and an examination of their contemporary situations. An attempt will be made to understand a woman's position as she either accepts or struggles against systems that have generally dictated specific behaviours to her. In addition, the special contribution that women have made and continue to make to religious traditions and practices will be assessed.

**Course Format:**

The course will include lectures and class discussion in both small groups and the entire class. Each week certain students will be asked to prepare questions for small group discussion. I do recommend, however, that as you read the assigned material, you would all write down questions and comments to bring to class. If you are shy about talking in class, please send your questions or comments to me via email and I will introduce them in class so that all can benefit from the discussion.

**Core Competencies:**

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas in both written assignments and oral presentations.

**Blackboard:**

The blackboard system will be used for communication, reporting grades on tests and exams, and posting notes and announcements.

**Course Requirements:**

4 written response papers (4 pages) are due on:

Jan. 26th, Feb 16th, March 8th, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	4 x 10% =	40%
Midterm Exam: February 23rd		20%
Final Essay (10 pages) due April 12th		40%
		<hr/>
		100%

**Reading Response Papers** – These four papers will be a reflection on Course material and class discussions. Assignments should be submitted in hard copy in class on the due date, please do not use the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard.

**Exams** - The midterm and final exams will include short answer questions (requiring answers of one or two paragraphs) and short essay questions (requiring answers of one to two pages). Your answers will be graded on form (proper grammar, effective organization of ideas, clear writing style) as well as content (accuracy, completeness, strength of analysis).

**Final Essay** - Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.

**NB. POLICY REGARDING MISSED EXAMINATIONS**

Exam dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IN YOUR DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THIS COURSE.

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.

**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	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

**Policy for Lateness:**

If students do not wish to incur a penalty for late submission of assignments, permission must be sought from the instructor at least three days prior to the due date.

**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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

**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.

**Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online services/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](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](mailto: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 new 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 Office of the Student Ombuds 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.