



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Winter 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 387- 01

**COURSE NAME:** Christian Monks, Mystics and Reformers

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** Web based

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Asynchronous lectures will be recorded for this unit and uploaded on to Desire2Learn (D2L). Synchronous elements of the unit will be delivered via Zoom and occur on Thursdays 12:30-13:45. See dates below.

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:**

Dr Carolyn Muessig

Email: carolyn.muessig@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 403 220 3286

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:** You may email me with queries related to the unit using your ucalgary email. Please send queries Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I will normally respond to emails sent via your @ucalgary email within 24 hours during standard work hours (this excludes responding on weekends and holidays). You should check your university email account once each weekday.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

An overview of medieval Christian monasticism and mysticism, including female mystics such as Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich, as well as humanists such as Erasmus, and early modern Protestant and Catholic Reformers.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is at once an introduction to premodern Christianity and also a close assessment of key figures who reflect the nature of religious life before the year 1600. We will examine examples of Western European monks, mystics and reformers from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. We will consider the historical context of their religious beliefs and practices and try to understand their actions and motivations. Students will learn about medieval monasticism; late medieval mysticism; and early modern humanists and theologians. The course posits that Christianity is a religion in a constant state of reformation and that every age is an age of reform. In order to understand the broad strokes of monasticism, mysticism, and reform, we will look at six key figures. These are: Peter Damian (d. 1072); Bernard of Clairvaux (d. 1153); Julian of Norwich (d. after 1416); Margery Kempe (d. 1438); Erasmus (d. 1536); Martin Luther (d. 1546). The unit will be taught through recorded lectures and online class discussion that will explore questions arising from lectures and the readings.

**For online courses:**

This course will take place online via D2L and Zoom. Asynchronous lectures will be recorded for this unit and uploaded on to D2L on a weekly basis and normally at least 24 hours before our synchronous meetings via Zoom. The synchronous part of this unit will be dedicated to addressing questions you may have arising from the lectures and readings. Equally, I will sometimes ask you questions in relation to the lectures and readings with the aim of facilitating a deeper comprehension of the course material and themes.

To best succeed in the course, students should read the assigned readings, listen to the asynchronous lectures using the D2L learning environment and attend the synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to a time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform me in advance, then listen to the relevant recordings that you missed.

Synchronous classes during the Winter Term run on Thursdays, 12:30–13:45 on the following dates:

14 January 2021  
21 January 2021  
28 January 2021  
4 February 2021  
11 February 2021  
25 February 2021  
4 March 2021  
11 March 2021  
18 March 2021  
25 March 2021  
1 April 2021  
8 April 2021

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

1. Acquired a clear understanding of the historical context of premodern monasticism, mysticism and reform.
2. Acquired through reasoned arguments based on evidence, an informed perception of the actions and motivations of premodern monks, mystics and reformers.
3. Acquired skills through written assignments and class discussion of how to present, analyse and evaluate complex ideas and arguments.

### **LEARNING RESOURCES**

There are no required texts books for this unit. All readings are available electronically via the University of Calgary Library. In some cases, primary source material will be available online. Links to be provided on D2L.

### **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains links to some required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

Students need to have reliable access to technology, as follows:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

A detailed class schedule will be made available the first day of class.

### ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

There are four written assessment components that all align to learning outcomes 1,2,3. These consist of 3 short essays 800 words, and one letter addressed to one of the six historical characters covered in this course (500 words). Each assignment is weighted at 25%. Further details of assignments will be made available in the first class. Criteria for assessment will be posted on D2L.

Due Date	Assessment	Weight
Monday, 8 February 2021, submit via Drop Box	Assignment 1: Short essay on Peter Damian and Bernard Clairvaux (800 words); OR write a dialogue between Peter Damian and Bernard of Clairvaux (800 words).	25%
Monday, 8 March 2021, submit via Dropbox.	Assignment 2: Short essay on Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe (800 words); OR write a dialogue between Julian of Norwich and Margery of Kempe (800 words).	25%
Tuesday, 6 April 2021, submit via Dropbox.	Assignment 3: Short essay on Erasmus and Luther (800 words); OR write a debate between Erasmus and Luther (800 words).	25%
Monday, 19 April, submit via Dropbox.	Assignment 4: Write a letter to any one of the six historical figures covered in this unit: (500 words).	25%

**No Registrars' scheduled Final exam**

### MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If you miss a required component of the course, you must contact me in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

## 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, usually used 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.

See also <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

Your final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. Please be sure to consult a manual of style for your written assignments. I am happy with whatever one you use, but you need to indicate to me which one you are using. If you need recommendations, the latest edition of any of the following would be fine: *The Chicago Manual of Style*; *MLA Handbook*; *Turabian: A Manual for Writers*.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Please submit all assignments electronically via the Dropbox in D2L. **Assignments should be submitted in Word.** Assignments should have a file name as follows: “First Name Last Name Assignment Number” (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

## **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS**

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. You are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

## **GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions.

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with me.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS**

Include information related to relevant policies and supports for teaching and learning as indicated below.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

## **MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

### ***Media recording for lesson capture***

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

### ***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices***

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

### ***Media recording for the assessment of student learning***

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain

circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk