

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016

Course	RELS 389-01 Modern Christianity: 1600-present
Time	T,R 2:00-3:15
Instructor	Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
Office hours	Thursday 3:45-4:45 or by appointment
Office	SS 502
E-mail	cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	(403) 220-5612

Required Text(s):

The Journey of Modern Theology: From Reconstruction to Deconstruction. Roger E. Olson, IVP Academic, 2013.

A New Christianity for a New World: Why Traditional Faith is Dying and How a New Faith is Being Born. John Shelby Spong, HarperOne, 2001.

Why Jesus? Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality. Ravi Zacharias, Faithwords, 2012.

Course Description:

Religion and culture, if considered to be distinct entities, commonly function in a reciprocal relationship. At times religion influences culture; at other times culture influences religion. As a religion, Christianity is no exception. Prior to the modern period, Christianity in the western world was disproportionately influential in culture, especially in shaping social institutions, determining ethical-moral paradigms, and informing spiritually-induced worldviews. Since the Enlightenment, various movements (e.g. empiricism, liberalism, secularism, atheism) have challenged or even displaced the ecclesial authority and the truth-claims of Christianity. The modern era has witnessed the separation of Church and State, philosophical challenges to theism, and the contesting of Creation by science. Since the 1960s postmodernism and poststructuralism have validated relativism and individualism, providing fertile soil for (author-replacing) reader hermeneutics. In Europe and North America especially, biblical authority and many cardinal teachings of Christianity have been scrutinized and rejected. This same period has also witnessed a rise in new age spiritualities and eastern religions/philosophies. In North American culture, Christianity has lost its stronghold on virtue and truth, with its teaching of exclusivity increasingly challenged. The changing religious landscape permits competition and cooperation.

This course explores Christianity from the early modern and enlightenment periods to the contemporary period. Course material will focus on the development of the Christian tradition in the context of modernism and postmodernity. Students will be introduced to the writings of major

thinkers in Christian thought as well as popular works by Bishop John Shelby Spong and Ravi Zacharias, who represent liberalism and apologetics respectively. Course material will include an overview of denominationalism and consider recent trends in theology, liturgy, music, and inter-religious dialogue.

Online elements for this course:

Accessing online texts, websites, documentaries and videos.

Core Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- The development of theology in western Christianity
- Philosophical influence in Christian thought
- Key figures in Christian thought 1600-current
- Key literary works in western Christianity
- Views of biblical authority in Christianity
- Denominational distinctives (post-Reformation)
- Reader theologies (post-structural)
- The development of Christianity in its social and political contexts
- The reciprocal relationship between Christianity and culture
- Current issues in hermeneutics
- Christianity and other religions

Course Requirements:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
<i>Test 1</i>	October 6	15%
<i>Assignment # 1</i>	October 20	25%
<i>Test 2</i>	November 15	15%
<i>Assignment #2</i>	November 24	25%
<i>Panel Presentation</i>	November 29, December 1, 6	10%
<i>Test 3</i>	December 8	10%

There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination for this course.

Assignment 1:

Evaluate the influence of one theologian featured in Olson’s book *The Journey of Modern Theology*. A list of theologians will be made available the first week of class. Students are required to consult 4-5 additional peer-reviewed sources. Assignment information and a marking rubric will be posted on D2L. Due at the beginning of class (2:00) on October 20. Length:1300-1500 words. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 1500 words. Assignments that exceed 1500 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words.

Assignment 2:

Analyze and compare the methods and approaches of Spong and Zacharias based on their works *A New Christianity for a New World: Why Traditional Faith is Dying and How a New Faith is Being*

Born and Why Jesus? Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality.

Assignment information and a marking rubric will be posted on D2L. Due at the beginning of class (2:00) on November 24. Length:1300-1500 words. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 1500 words. Assignments that exceed 1500 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words.

Panel Presentation:

Panels will be composed of 3-4 students. A sign-up sheet with panel questions and panel dates will be circulated in class on November 8. Assignment information and a marking rubric will be posted on D2L. The panel discussions for this class are designed according to a 20-minute schedule. Each student will prepare a written response to the question (300-350 words). Once all of the panelists have read their response, an open discussion of approximately 10 minutes will follow. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 350 words. Assignments that exceed 350 words will be deducted 5% per 50 excess words.

Writing Assistance:

The instructor will not read through or evaluate an assignment in advance of the due date. If a student would like to present a rough draft of an assignment to the instructor in advance of the due date, the student may bring the rough draft to the instructor during office hours or an arranged appointment. The instructor will read select sections of the draft and advise the student according to the marking rubric. Do not email the rough draft to the instructor. For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing and Learning Services.

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

Adjusted Grades:

The instructor will implement .5% as a standard measure of adjustment for grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or ‘round up’ your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments:

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero for the missed test.

Policy with regard to late submissions:

Late submissions of assignments are deducted 15% per day. Students seeking an extension for an assignment must make a written request by email at least 48 hours before the deadline.

Extra Assignments:

There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer their inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for email correspondence in this course:

Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline.

Electronic Device Policy:

Laptops are permitted during class if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other nonacademic activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted. Picture-taking of data projector images and slides is not permitted. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered."

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of 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, 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 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.

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.