

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

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014

Course	Religious Studies 397 L01: Science and Religion
Time	TR 9:30- 10:45
Location	MS 217
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office Hours	T 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment
Office	SS 554
E-mail	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403 220 7069

Required Text: Christopher Southgate ed. *God Humanity and the Cosmos*, 3rd edition
Bloomsbury T&T Clark. (2011)

Optional Text: various articles and papers will be posted on the D2L site for this course.

Course Description: Science and Religion, when understood in their historical and theoretical contexts, have developed in lock-step, mutually defining each other. The relationship between them has thus been a complex and dynamic dance. More recently this relationship has been characterized primarily as a conflict, particularly from the so-called ‘New Atheists’ but this belies a much more complicated reality. This course will problematize and nuance the science–religion relationship to help develop a critical understanding of both science and religion, their ongoing mutual co-definition, and the ways in which this discussion is used rhetorically in contemporary culture. We will consider how this discussion takes place in media, films, science fiction and popular texts, as well as the historical and critical contexts of the relationship.

Online elements for this course:

Students may wish to subscribe to the online list *Metanexus* in order to gain an appreciation of the multitude of issues and approaches involved in the field of Science and Religion. The URL for Metanexus is www.metanexus.net/index.html, where the following description of the service is given: "Metanexus is an international online forum on religion and science with over 5055 subscribers in 57 different countries. It includes a monthly annotated digest, daily postings of commentaries and book reviews, daily news clippings from the field, and daily announcements of events and opportunities."

Core Competencies:

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the science-religion interchange and in so doing will gain an understanding of the foundations and limits of this dialogue as well as a critical understanding of popular depictions of this subject. Students will gain a greater understanding of the issues arising from recent work in the so-called ‘new atheism’ and will be exposed to various problems and issues in the field from both religious

(primarily western traditions) and scientific/secular perspectives. Students will be given opportunities to further develop their communication skills in written and oral forms.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Oct 16, 2014	mid-term, in-class exam	30
Nov 13, 2014	Term paper outline and critical bibliography	20
Nov 27, 2014	Final term paper and presentations	50 (40 paper + 10 presentation)
Dec 2, 4, 2014		
There is no registrar scheduled exam for this course		

Details of exam, paper and presentation expectations will be made available in the first week of class.

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:

Test 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.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This course will require 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. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other forms, so if you cannot avoid missing a class, please ask a fellow student for notes which you have missed. Lectures will assume knowledge of the assigned texts and will be analytic in nature.

Electronic Device Policy:

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. While respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed in this course, you are strongly encouraged not to use them at all in class. 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 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>.

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.