

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2022**

<b>Course</b>	Religious Studies 397.01, Religion and Science
<b>Time</b>	Online
<b>Place</b>	Online; Zoom
<b>Zoom</b>	Meeting ID: 986 8370 7156 Passcode: 199389
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
<b>TA(s)</b>	n/a
<b>Office</b>	SS 530
<b>Office Hours</b>	Thursday 12:00-13:00 or by appointment
<b>E-mail</b>	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
<b>Telephone</b>	403 220 7069

**Required Text(s)**

Paper, articles and readings will be posted to the D2L site for this course

**Recommended Text(s)**

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

**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 philosophical and critical contexts of the relationship. Topics to be considered may include religious meanings and implications of the nature of technology; artificial intelligence, post-humanism, cosmology, information theory, quantum theory and humanities in healthcare, among others.

**Online elements for this course**

This course will take place **online** via D2L and Zoom in both a synchronous (Thursday pm) and asynchronous manner. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement an alternative participation activity.

## 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 issues to do with technology, AI and post-humanism, and will be exposed to various problems and issues in the field from both religious (primarily western traditions) and scientific/naturalist perspectives.

## Course Requirements

There will be THREE components to the grade for this course:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
<b>2 June 2022</b> Due 11:59pm in D2L dropbox	Paper proposal and bibliography (500 words + min. 10 source biblio.)	20%
<b>7 June 2022</b>	Synchronous online exam	35%
<b>16 June 2022</b> Final essay Due 11:59pm in D2L dropbox	Final Research Essay 2500 words	45%
<b>N.B.</b> There is no Registrar Scheduled Exam for this course All assessments must be submitted to pass the course All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.		

## 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

## Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

Assessment dates are firm. Without acceptable reasons or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. If you miss an assessment date through no fault of your own, you must contact me in writing by email within 24 hours of the missed assessment to negotiate an alternative. The instructor retains the right to reject inequitable proposed alternatives, though every effort will be made to find a suitable option. Failure to follow these directions and/or meet these deadlines will result in an 'F' for that assessment. There are no extra or alternative assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade. Please arrange your schedule to accommodate assessment dates. 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.

## **LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS AND PROPOSALS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY.**

### **Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This is primarily a student-driven, on-line course. You should read the materials and follow the online lectures for the course prior to our synchronous meetings. If you do not understand the material, it is up to you to find and read supplementary material in order for you to understand it. Neither I (nor the TA for the course, if one is assigned) will respond to emails which, in our view, ask questions which, with a little effort or re-reading, can be answered for yourself. (Such discussion and input are, of course, aspects of in-person courses, and I will not attempt to re-create such an experience through online communication). If you have a genuinely philosophical or critical question, at our discretion we will either respond to your email or defer response to the online office hour (Thursday 12:00-13:00) where I (or the TA) will respond to questions or issues which may be helpful for the whole class. The aim for this course is for you to be able to read/listen to the material in your own time, as well as clarify for yourself any issues or questions you may have. Email must be sent to the instructor from a University of Calgary email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail as these may not be seen. Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course number you are registered in. Inquiries related to exams must be sent no less than 48 hours before the date and time for the exam. Do not send me emails concerning an assessment on the day of the assessment. In most cases these will not be answered. The instructor will reply to emails only on business days, and only between 9:00-17:00.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy**

Synchronous online sessions will not be recorded. Please arrange your schedule to attend those sessions.

While we will be using internet resources heavily during this course, recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. (Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online First* May 22, 2014) During Zoom sessions I strongly suggest that you do not use a laptop or computer for notes. Note taking using a pen and paper has been shown to aid learning and recall. (Carter, Greenberg, and Walker “SEII Discussion Paper” #2016.02)

No student recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission. If student recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

### **Syllabus**

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

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Please submit all assignments electronically through the D2L Dropbox for this course. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format, and in all cases formatted with Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins all around. Please number your pages and include word count at the end of the paper. Assignments should have a file name as follows: “First Name, Last Name, Assignment Number; Course number, Semester” (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2; Religious Studies 397 Spring xx). Assignments must be submitted by Midnight (i.e. 11:59 pm) 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. Please ensure you send the correct version as I reserve the right to reject subsequent versions after the first received.

## **GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS**

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 as soon as possible before the scheduled time.

## **References and Bibliography**

The Department 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](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

### **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>.

### **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/).

### **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**