

**The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies
Winter 2012**

Religious Studies 397 L01: Religion and Science

Day/Time Place	TR 12:30-13:45; ES920
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office	SS1320
Office Hours	T 15:00-16:00 or by appointment
Email	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Phone	403-220-7069

Texts:

Buckley, Michael J. *At the Origins of Modern Atheism*. New Haven: Yale, 1987.

Baggini, Julian. *Atheism: A very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2003.

Recommended:

Antony, Louise M. ed. *Philosophers without Gods: Meditations on Atheism and the Secular Life*. Oxford: OUP, 2007.

Some additional materials may be assigned. 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.

Course Description:

It is often thought, particularly of late in response to the so-called ‘new atheism,’ that a full commitment to science entails atheism and that religion is tantamount to theism. However a historical survey of the science-religion encounter belies this naive view. This course will consider the theism-atheism debate through the lens of how science and religion have been co-constructed in relationship to each other. We will consider how theological responses to the perceived ‘threat’ of atheism shaped religion in the modern period, particularly in the west, before a more thorough consideration of the arguments and counterarguments of theism and atheism as they shape our understanding of both religion and science.

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

There will be three assessments for this class. Details of assessments will be distributed in class.

Assessment	Date	Weight
Presentation	TBA	20%
Midterm in-class essay	28 Feb 2012	30%
Final research paper	12 Apr 2012	50%

**There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.*

Grading:

A numerical grade will be given for each course requirement with a letter grade awarded as the cumulative grade for the course. Below is the table approved by the Dept of Religious Studies:

A+ 96 –100%	A 90-95%	A- 85-89%
B+ 80-84%	B 75-79%	B- 70-74%
C+ 65-69%	C 60-64%	C- 55-59%
D+ 53-54%	D 50-52%	F < 50%

NB. POLICY WITH REGARDING MISSED ASSESSMENTS

Test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’.

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.

Syllabus:

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

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.

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 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. 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 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 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.