FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022

COURSE NUMBER: Religious Studies 399.01

COURSE NAME: Watching Film Religiously: Religion and Irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning

CLASSROOM LOCATION: SS203

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: BLOCK WEEK: MTWRF, Jan 3-7 inclusive.
                                              PLEASE NOTE This is a SYNCHRONOUS, ONLINE CLASS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tinu Ruparell
                        SS530
                        ruparell@ucalgary.ca
                        403 220 7069
                        office hours: during block week W 12:00-13:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a mid-level course aimed at examining how religious, non-religious and anti-religious perspectives have been expressed through the medium of film – and how film interrogates the nature of religion. We will be interested in exploring various philosophical and religious issues arising out of the filmmaker's interaction with culture and the way in which these interactions relate to wider religious traditions, themes, practices and concerns. Through an examination of certain key philosophical/religious writings as well as careful analyses of a selection of films, we will interrogate the notion of religion as a system of meaning production as well as the uses to which film has been put in expressing these meanings.

BLOCK WEEK: Please note that this course will run from Monday Jan 3 – Friday Jan 7 2022.

THE COURSE WILL BE SYNCHRONOUS AND ONLINE THROUGH ZOOM

This course will run for 5 days during block week from 9 am to approximately 5 pm daily. Success in this block week course requires full attendance, thorough preparation and engagement with the material and, of course, prompt submission of all assessed requirements. **Failure to complete and submit all assessed course requirements will result in a grade of F for the course. NO extensions will be permitted and NO late papers will be accepted without an acceptable medical certificate.**

Students should be aware of the following important regulations concerning Block Week courses: The last day to **drop** a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the **end of the first day of lectures.** The last day to **withdraw** from a Block Week course is the **final day of lectures during the Block Week.** Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered and may be posted at any point before this time.

For online courses:

All materials will be placed on D2L and Perusall, including films, which will be presented **synchronously**, and will not remain available to students outside designated times. Online lectures will largely take place synchronously through Zoom. Please arrange your schedule accordingly.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on some key issues in the study of religion and, to a lesser extent, film. In so doing students may gain critical reading, interpretive and analytic skills. Additionally, students may begin to acquire abilities in forming clear, concise and cogent arguments, develop their writing and communication skills, and broaden their perspectives on the place of religion in contemporary visual culture. Skills acquired in this course may have relevance in upper-level courses in the humanities as well as in wider social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course may help students reflect more clearly and critically on the relationship between religion and culture and on their own religious or irreligious narratives.

Texts:
Readings will be available on the D2L and/or Perusall sites for the course. All readings will be in PDF or Word format. It is important that you read each article/chapter in <u>advance</u> of the lecture in which it or its themes are discussed.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS:
There is a D2L and/or Perusall site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

 For online, remote or blended courses:

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

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

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

ASSESSMENT: Please note policy regarding assessments below

	Date	Description	Weight
Test	**Jan 7**	An in-class short-answer test covering all the readings covered in the course	10%
In-class presentations	**Jan 5-7**	Short presentations on topic/films to be assigned. A written version (max 1000 words) of the	35%

		presentation must be submitted on the day you/and or your group present.	
Final Paper	**Jan 14 2022 Noon**	A 2500 word essay on topics to be assigned. Due on D2L dropbox in Word or PDF format	55%
All assessments must be completed for a passing grade for this course.			
There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.			

N.B.: grades for each of these elements may not be posted until the final week of the term. Please do not contact me requesting grades prior to this time.

Missed or late assessments policy: Failure to write an exam, complete the presentation or submit the paper on time will result in an F in this part of the assessment. Given the compressed nature of the course, NO exceptions or rescheduling will be allowed without <u>extremely</u> extenuating circumstances. This is to help ensure that the course is completed in the required time and all students are treated equitably. Students who know or suspect that they will be unable to attend the class regularly or have to miss one of the assessment dates should reconsider their participation in this course.

Grading:

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned for the course on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+ 95-100%	A 90-94%	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%

Syllabus
A full Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class and posted to D2L shortly prior to the first 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**.**

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

presentations and exercises will inform the grade for your paper and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course 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.

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

Electronic Device Policy (for in-person courses):

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for note-taking and other in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades(Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online First* May 22, 2014). I strongly urge you 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 prohibited. If students persist in texting, using the web or other activities not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will not be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. **No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission.** If 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.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS
As noted above, final papers and presentations must be submitted on time through the Dropbox in D2L. Assignments can be submitted in Word or PDF format, and have a file name as follows: "Last Name, First Name (Group number if relevant) Religious Studies 399: Assignment Number" (eg. Smith_John_Rels399_Presentation) It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS, (for online courses)

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 prior, written, 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/ .

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/ .

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, prior and written consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites, discord servers or any other hosting site without permission is prohibited and may result in an F for the course and/or

academic or non-academic misconduct. 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.

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