

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

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

Course	RELS 399.10 L02 – Mutants, Mystics, & Magic
Time	15:30-16:45 TR
Instructor	Jonathan Napier
Office	SS 502
Office Hours	Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm
Email	janapier@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-5612

Required Text

All readings will be posted on D2L or are available online through the University of Calgary's library.

Course Description

Religion comes in many forms. Often religion transgresses normative boundaries into the realms of the strange, the paranormal, and the fantastical. In this course we will study cases of religion that challenge common perceptions and veer into the unknown and unknowable. We will ask questions like: “what does it mean to be human?” Mutants, mystics, and magic can often blur the lines between the mundane, the paranormal, the supernatural, and the transcendent. The readings range from scholarly articles who study such phenomena to authors and believers who explore themes of transcendence. Through an analytical study of such experiences and stories we will aim to uncover some of the strange and uncanny ways religion can manifest.

Online Elements for this course:

Announcements, readings, and marks will be posted online on D2L.

Core Competencies

Students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on issues in the study of religion and human nature. Students will be expected to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and peer discussions. They will also have the opportunity to enhance writing, research, and communication skills. This course will focus students’ analytic skills and help them to get to the core of an issue. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect and converse more clearly and critically on the diverse nature of religion in society.

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Tuesday Oct 6 th	Response 1	10%	No
Tuesday Oct 13 th	Test 1	25%	No
Tuesday Nov 10 th	Response 2	10%	No
Tuesday Nov 24 th	Test 2	25 %	No
Tuesday Dec 8 th	Response 3	10%	No
Friday Dec 11 th	Take Home Exam	20 %	No

There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course

Tests 1 & 2:

Both tests will be designed to examine students' knowledge and analysis of course materials, lectures, and class discussions. They will be composed of two short answer questions and one long answer question and are to be written in-class. Answers will be graded on content and form.

Responses 1, 2, & 3

Responses will be written by students to examine and reflect upon an in-class prompt. The prompt will be a film or television show and will be used to explore class themes and material. Each response should be 1-2 pages double-spaced (Times New Roman font).

Take Home Exam

The "Take Home Exam" will be an opportunity for students to explore the course themes and material. There will be a question which students will be expected to respond to in an essay style format. Essays should be approximately 6 pages double-spaced (Times New Roman font). The question will be provided on D2L in advance and essays will be due by Friday, Dec 11th. Students will submit their exams on D2L dropbox. Further details will be provided in 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

Exam and assignment dates are firm. Missed examinations or assignments must be accompanied by proper documentation (a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) and prior arrangement with the instructor. In case of a missed assignment or exam due to an unforeseeable emergency, students must notify the professor within 24 hours or as quickly as possible. Late assignments will lose 10% a day. Otherwise, missed exams and assignments will be awarded an 'F'.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Students are expected to be prepared to fully participate in discussions on course material in a respectful manner. Also, students should familiarize themselves with the university's Academic Honesty policy. Please be courteous in email correspondence.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

Laptops are permitted only for the purpose of taking notes and for assignments. No electronics devices are allowed to be used in class for emailing, facebook, videos, texting, games, etc. Students that distract other students or the instructor with unauthorized use of electronic devices will be asked to leave the classroom.

Students are expected to have access to d2l and u of c library

Syllabus

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

References and Bibliography

The Department of Religious Studies 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, or librarian staff.

Writing Support

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; 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/.

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. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email 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 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.