

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

**Religious Studies 417. 04 L01 Recent Religious Thought: Existentialism**

**W 14:00-16:45**

SS 1332

**Instructor**

Dr. Tinu Ruparell

**Office**

SS1320

**Office Hours**

T 12:00-13:00 or by appointment

**Email**

[ruparell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca)

**Phone**

403-220-7069

**Course Texts:**

Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

Soren Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*

Jean-Paul Sartre: *Being and Nothingness*

Paul Tillich: *The Courage to Be*

All of these texts are available as downloads on the Blackboard site

Some additional required readings may be assigned and will be made available either through the blackboard site or in class.

**Course Description:**

Modern religions owe much to the thought of, and reaction to, such thinkers as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre and Tillich. This course will consider themes arising from the work of these thinkers towards an understanding of what human authenticity might mean in the context of religion. The central tenets of existentialism will be developed and problematised in response to reading these authors.

**Core Competencies:**

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the ambiguous nature of existentialism as well as the challenge it continues to pose to religion. As this is a course in recent religious thought, every attempt will be made to ascertain how existentialism in philosophy, literature, art, film and theatre have impacted the nature of religion. Committed students will gain in their abilities of analysis, verbal and written communication and critical self-reflection in the context of the study of religion.

**Course Requirements:**

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

Element	Weight	Date
In-class presentation	30%	TBA
Final research essay (3-4 thousand words)	50%	Written essays due in hard copy in class on Nov 28, 2012
Plus Oral Defense (30 minutes)	20%	Oral to take place between Dec 3-7, 2012, schedule TBA

**Note on Oral Defense:**

The oral examination is meant to be an opportunity for the student to discuss further and thereby strengthen their research essay. It is a way by which feedback on the essay can become a springboard for further analysis and discussion. Questions will be based on the student's submitted essay, though, of course, some understanding of the authors and issues covered in class and through the assigned readings will be assumed. The aim of the oral is for students to support the essay and verbal performance in the oral will not be assessed.

*\*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 standardized within 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/LATEASSESSMENTS**

**In-class presentation 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'. If there is an issue with your assigned date for the presentation, please see me as soon as possible.**

**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.**

**LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. Missing the oral examination without acceptable cause (as above) will result in a 15% penalty on the essay as well as an F on the oral exam component. Missing the presentation will result in an F in that component of the final grade.**

**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 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/onlineservices/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/bbbs\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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 ca