

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016**

**Course:** RELS 417.07 L01 Recent Religious Thought: Modern Christian Autobiography

**Time:** 2:00-4:45PM Mo

**Instructor:** Dr. Douglas Shantz

**Office Hours:** 12 noon W or by appt.

**Office:** SS 530

**Email:** [dshantz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dshantz@ucalgary.ca)

**Telephone:** 403-220-3283

**Required Textbooks**

- Augustine. *Confessions*. Tr. Henry Chadwick. Oxford University Press, 2008.  
St. Teresa. *The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself*. Tr. John M. Cohen. Penguin, 1957.  
Fox, George. *The Journal of George Fox*. Edited by Rufus M. Jones. Friends United Press. First published 1976. Republished June 27, 2006.  
Gosse, Edmund. *Father and Son: A Study of Two Temperaments*. Ed. Michael Newton. Oxford University Press, 2009.  
Merton, Thomas. *The Seven Storey Mountain*. Harbrace, 1998 (orig. 1948).  
Day, Dorothy. *The Long Loneliness: An Autobiography*. HarperOne, 2009.  
Lamott, Anne. *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*. Anchor Books, 2000.

**Course Description**

This course deals with Christian thought and experience in the Modern Era as reflected in Spiritual Autobiography. The course considers the nature of autobiography as a historical/religious source, and examines the religious thought and experience of selected thinkers in their social-cultural context. Class time is devoted mainly to discussion of assigned reading and class presentations.

**Core Competencies**

- 1) Through discussion of readings and seminar presentations students will gain acquaintance with important thinkers, texts and movements within western Christianity during the early modern and modern periods.
- 2) The student will gain insight into various interpretive issues and debates relating to the genre of autobiography and to the various authors investigated in the course.
- 3) Students will gain experience and skill in historical methods of textual analysis and interpretation, and an ability to view Christian thinkers in interaction with their culture.
- 4) The student will develop skills in critical reading and writing.

### Self-Directed Study

Students are responsible for independent learning from the assigned readings.  
Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

### Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Weekly	Class participation	30%	Required
Twice in the term	Lead class discussion	30%	Required
April 11	Research Paper of 3,500 words	40 %	Required

### Learning Assessment

1) Every class includes discussion of assigned reading from the primary source texts and the course pack. **Class preparation and participation** are essential. (30%)

2) **In two classes** the student is responsible for leading in-class discussion of assigned articles. In the same two classes, the student must submit to the professor an “Interpretive Summary” essay, summarizing and critiquing pre-assigned articles. Each summary should be **1,250 words** long. Students should discuss key themes in the article, and identify points of agreement and criticism. Scheduling who will lead which in-class discussions will be determined the first week of classes. (30%)

3) The student must submit a typed **research paper** about **3,500 words** in length on a topic related to the authors studied in the course. The paper should have a strong argument or thesis, and should present it clearly and persuasively using both primary and secondary sources, including articles in scholarly journals. The essay should follow scholarly standards of composition, citation and bibliography. Consultation with the professor regarding your topic is encouraged. Due in class on Apr. 11; no late papers accepted. (40%)

### 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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:** Grade will be 0 / F

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:** Class attendance and participation are an important element of the grade for this course.

**Electronic Device Policy:** cell phones must be turned off.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of 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. Here is a quick guide: [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.

**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.

**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/](http://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](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.

**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](mailto: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](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 campus to request a walk.