

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS

**DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

Course	Rels 437.01 Hermeneutics
Time	TH. 2.00-.4.45 pm
Instructor	Dr M. Joy
Office Hours	T. 2.30-3.30 pm
Office	SS544
E-mail	<a href="mailto:mjoy@ucalgary.ca">mjoy@ucalgary.ca</a>
Telephone	220-7995

**Required Text(s):**

*A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics* by David Jasper Westminster Knox Press 2002

There will also be a Coursepack of required readings available for purchase from the bookstore.

Students will also be asked to obtain certain classic essays for in-class discussion.–these may be made available for purchase, or be obtained through the Blackboard site for the course.

**Course Description:**

Hermeneutics is the classical term for interpretation theory. In this course we will first take an overview of the history of the application of this approach, examining traditional theories and evaluating their relevance for today. A further investigation will involve analyzing contemporary texts to learn the way such a method can still be applied, and how one can become aware of certain problematic techniques and strategies by employing what is called a “hermeneutics of suspicion.” The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic appreciation of the variety of ways that hermeneutics has always been implicated in acts of reading and interpretation. This, of course, has led to complex issues and disagreements as to its actual definition and use that remain extremely relevant for present day debates in philosophy and religion, e.g., especially those raised by postmodernism, postcolonialism, discourse theory, and intertextuality.

**Online elements for this course:**

The Desire2Learn system will be used for communication, reporting grades on tests and exams, and posting notes and announcements.

**Core Competencies**

Students in this course will learn both the modern history of hermeneutics as well as practice the kinds of arguments employed in interpretation theory. As this is course in theory in the study of religion, students will gain an appreciation of the continuing discussions on the nature and role of context, subjectivity, and history in the understanding of religious texts as well as of

the wider context to which hermeneutic ideas have expanded in recent years. Students will sharpen their powers of textual analysis, improve their skills in verbal and written communication, as well as gain more insight through critical self-reflection of their own presuppositions.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
24th September	Response paper	15%	
22th October	Response paper	15%	
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Response paper	15%	
Different Dates	Class Presentation	15%	
3rd December	Final essay	40%	
There will be no final exam			

**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.

**Please be aware that all three written assignments are directed to specific course content:**

Assignment 1. From 8<sup>th</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> September

Assignment 2. From 6<sup>th</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Assignment 3. From 27<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessment**

All dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IN YOUR DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THIS COURSE.

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.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

No electronic recording of class allowed.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus of specific class readings 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. You can find a quick guide here: HYPERLINK "http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\_citationguide.html" [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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

**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 HYPERLINK "http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students" <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](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>" <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: HYPERLINK "<mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca>" [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit HYPERLINK "<http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>" <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](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 HYPERLINK "<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>" [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 HYPERLINK "<mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca>" [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 HYPERLINK "<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>" [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.