

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

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

Course	Religious Studies 437 – Hermeneutics and Religion
Time	Thursday 14:00 – 16:45
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
TA(s)	n/a
Office	SS1301
Office Hours	Thurs 13:00-14:00 or by appointment
E-mail	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403 220 7069

Required Text(s)

Stanley Porter and Jason Robinson: *Hermeneutics: An Introduction to Interpretive theory*, Erdmans, 2011
David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 1: The Interpretation of Texts* OUP, 1986
David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 2: The Interpretation of Existence* OUP 1986
Paul Ricoeur, *Interpretation Theory, Discourse and the surplus of meaning*. Texas Christian U press, 1976

Optional Text(s)

Further readings may be required and will be made available at student expense or through the Blackboard site for the course

Course Description

This course will consider philosophical issues arising from hermeneutics and interpretation theory. Within a historical context beginning in the west with Schleiermacher and Dilthey, we will be concerned with three main areas: definition of the ‘text’ and interpretation theory; the development of method in the interpretation of religious texts; and contemporary developments in hermeneutics. The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic appreciation of the variety of ways that hermeneutics has been employed, of the complex problems involved in its definition and use, and of the major issues that continue to be debated with regard to its nature and practice.

Online elements for this course (if any)

n/a

Core Competencies

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the modern history of hermeneutics as well as practice the kinds of arguments employed in hermeneutics theory. As this is a course in theory in the study of religion, students will gain an appreciation of the ongoing discussion on the nature and role of context, subjectivity and history in our understanding of religious texts as well as the wider functions to which hermeneutical theory has been put in more recent times. 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:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA	In class presentations	30%
Final essay Due 3 Apr 2014 with defenses taking place 7-11 Apr 2014 (schedule TBA)	Final Research Essay	50%
	plus Oral Defense	20%
(Registrar scheduled)	There is NO registrar scheduled exam for this course	

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.

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

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.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

This is a seminar course which requires 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 will inform the grade for the presentation assessment. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

Respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed. 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 to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

Syllabus

A complete syllabus will be made available 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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

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>

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 Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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/bbls_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 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 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. 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 3rd 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 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.