

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Course Outline Winter 2005
RELS 441 L01 - MILLENARIAN MOVEMENTS

04/12/17

INSTRUCTOR	Irving Hexham
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Chang Han Kim
CLASS TIME	T, 9.30-12.15
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS	SS 1310 T 12:15 – 1 p.m. or by appointment.
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WEB SITE	http://www.ucalgary.ca/~hexham

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books that are available from the University of Calgary Bookstore are required reading:

Walter Klaassen *Armageddon and the Peaceable Kingdom*
Frederic J Baumgartner *Longing for the End: A History of Millennialism in Western Civilization*

The following are recommended additional reading:

M. Barkum *Millennialism and Violence*
S. Palmer, ed. *Messiahs and Mayhem*
G. Hanratty *Studies in Gnosticism*

Calendar description:

A study of religious and political millenarianism. Persons such as Louis Riel, Thomas Munzter, Karl Marx and William Aberhard. Movements such as cargo cults, nativism, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovahs Witnesses and Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism.

Specific description:

This course studies one of the most important religious phenomena in contemporary society: millenarianism. The course begins by describing the theological and religious beliefs that contribute to the development of such groups and investigates the social and historical context of millenarian movements. It goes on to examine several specific movements found in modern society and the reasons for their appeal.

Course Requirements:

Class presentation, date to be arranged, based on the assigned textbooks: 50% of final grade.
A paper, of about 3,000 to 4,000 words, due two weeks before the end of term: 50% of final grade.

Paper and presentation topics are to be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Students are encouraged to type their papers and use the Harvard system of references, i.e. in text notes e.g. (Hexham, *Zulu Religion*, 1987, p.6) then subsequent references (Hexham, 1987:71). Also, remember to add a full bibliography. Late papers are accepted but will automatically be deducted 10%. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to set the test on a different date without a doctor's note.

How the Course Will Work:

The course is divided into five basic components. These are: 1) lectures; 2) seminars; 3) films; 4) self-study; and 5) presentations. A detailed course outline and list of seminar topics, with assigned presentations, will be issued at the end of the second week of classes.

Objectives of the Course and Core Competencies:

At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- ✓ appreciate the complexity of religion and politics
- ✓ understand the role of millenarian thought in political movements
- ✓ discuss millenarianism intelligently

Grading

A letter grade will be assigned to each requirement according to the “Undergraduate Grading System” which appears on page 43 of the 2004-05 University Calendar.

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

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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first be approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

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>.