

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

RELS 447 L01: *Theories of Religion*

WINTER 2015

Place and Time: EEEL 151, Monday 2:00 - 4:45.

Instructor: David A. Bergen, SS540, 403-220-7063, dabergen@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Monday 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

Required Textbooks:

Contemporary Theories of Religion: A Critical Companion (ed. Stausberg)

Theories of Religion: A Reader (ed. Kumin)

The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of Religion (McCutcheon/Arnal)

The Invention of World Religions: Or, How European Universalism was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism (Masuzawa)

Content and Objectives:

A critical examination of various theories used in the academic study of religion.

Online elements for this course:

A schedule of assigned readings and assessments, as well as updates and announcements will be posted in D2L.

Assessments:

Contributions to Class Discussion - 20%

Students will need to email the instructor prior to each Monday a set of critical questions on the assigned readings.

Two Short Comparative Essays – 20% each

Two essays, comparing two theories/theorists of religion, 5-6 pages in length. Essay due dates: February 9 and March 9.

Final Essay - 40%

A 12-15 page analysis (historical and/or social) of the purpose and function of the discipline of Religious Studies in western society. Essay due on Friday, April 17th

N.B. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Grading Scale:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

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 (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.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. 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.

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.