

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**Course:** RELS 447 L01: Theories Of Religion  
**Time:** Tuesday 2:00-4:45 PM  
**Instructor:** E. Segal  
**Office Hours** Tuesday 1:00-2:00 or by appointment  
**Office:** SS 548  
**E-mail** eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca  
**Telephone** 403.220.3279

**Required Text(s):**

Strenski, Ivan, ed. *Thinking About Religion: A Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.  
 Strenski, Ivan. *Understanding Theories of Religion*. Second edition. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons, 2015.

**Course Description:**

Works by scholars representing different approaches to the study of religion will be examined in detail and discussed critically

**Core Competencies:**

- Participate in seminar-style discussion, arguing for and against positions.
- Develop skills in critical reading.
- Analyze scholarly theories and methodologies, learning how to construct, evaluate and apply valid arguments.
- Effectively present readings and your own research in written and oral form.
- Carry out original research.

**Course Requirements:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
To be scheduled individually:	Leading a class discussion about one of the readings.	10%
February 7 2017	Two short responses (approx. 300 words) to selected readings.	15%
March 14 2017		15%
March 21 2017	Preliminary research project and bibliography.	10%
April 13 2017	Major research essay (approx. 3,000 words), applying theories learned in the course to religion-related cases or phenomena.	50%

**There will be no Registrar-scheduled examination in this course.**

**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, usually used 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.

### **Electronic Device Policy:**

Although 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, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only (i.e., under normal circumstances: never). 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.

### **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.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

### **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.