

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
WINTER TERM 2023
COURSE OUTLINE
RELS 447.01
THEORIES OF RELIGION

Instructor	Irving Hexham
Seminar time:	Tuesdays-Thursdays 12.30-1.45
Seminar location:	SS 553
Office	SS 1310
Office hours	Before and after seminar
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Objectives of the Course: This is a seminar that introduces students to classical methods and theories used in the study of religion. It involves two weekly seminars, usually held each Tuesday and Thursday.

Learning outcomes and core competencies: At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- a) participate in seminar discussions.
- b) discuss various theoretical explanations of religion.
- c) think critically about valid ways to study religion.
- d) appreciate the importance of using reliable academic methods.
- e) make informed judgment about the reliability of specific books and texts.
- f) Analyse, evaluate, and apply scholarly theories and arguments.
- g) Make effective presentations.

Course description: This is a fourteen-week course which has only one teaching day in the final week and includes a reading week from Sunday 19 to Saturday 25 February. This means it has twelve full weeks of teaching plus one day and the reading week. The final day will be used to discuss questions raised by the course or related to student needs. Practically this means you ought to plan for 10 hours of reading and research each week plus 2 hours of writing. Assuming an average reading speed of 20 pages per hour, then the normal expectation is that you read 200 pages per week or a total of 3000 pages throughout the course. Given that the average academic book has between 250 and 350 pages then you ought to be able to read at least ten academic books during this course.

Online elements for this course:

These will be introduced during the lectures and posted on D2L

Reading requirements:

You are required to read and study the following books:

John Beattie, *Other Cultures*

ISBN-10 : 0029020506

ISBN-13 : 978-0029020500

Amazon.ca price \$23.75 CND

Tony Buzan, *Use Your Head*
ISBN 1406644277
Amazon price \$10.68

G. R. Elton, *The Practice of History*
ISBN-10 : 0631229809
ISBN-13 : 978-0631229803
Amazon.ca price \$50

W. Ward Fearnside and William B. Holther, *Fallacy: The Counterfeit of Argument*
ISBN 979-8585091391
Amazon.ca price \$29

Robert A. Stebbins, *Exploratory Research in the Social Sciences*
ISBN 0-7619-2398-5
IABN 0-7619-2399-3
Amazon.ca price \$39.18
Total cost of the set books is: \$152.61

You may also find the following books useful:

Raymond Williams, *Key Words*

Hexham, Irving, [Concise Dictionary of Religion](#)

Other related texts:

The following books are available online from the Internet Archive at:

<https://archive.org/details/texts>

You are not expected to read all of them, but you may be asked to read selected passages. The reason for providing the complete book is so that you learn to see how some authors select, and sometimes take things out of context. This may seem like a lot of work, but it is no more than if you were to buy a book of extracts which is far more expensive than downloading the originals. The following books may be discussed in the course. All of them are in the public domain and available from the Internet Archive:

Paine, Thomas,	<u>The Age of Reason</u>
Feuerbach, Ludwig,	<u>The Essence of Christianity</u>
Strauss, D F,	<u>The Life of Jesus</u>
	<u>The New Faith and the New</u>
Marx, Karl and R: Engels,	<u>On Religion</u>
Nietzsche, Friedrich	<u>Thus Spake Zarathustra</u>

Macpherson, James	<u>Poems of Ossian</u>
Grimm, Jacob	<u>Teutonic Mythology</u>
Lang, Andrew	<u>Myth Ritual and Religion: Volume One</u>
	<u>Myth Ritual and Religion: Volume Two</u>
Fraser, Sir James	<u>The Golden Bough</u>

Chamberlain, H. S	<u>Foundations of the Nineteenth Century: Volume One</u>
	<u>Foundations of the Nineteenth Century: Volume Two</u>

Rosenberg, Alfred

[*The Myth of the 20th. Century*](#)

N.B. The last two authors were key Nazi theorists:

Eliade, Mercea
William James,
Freud, Sigmund,

[*Cosmos and History: The Myth of the Eternal Return*](#)

[*Varieties of Religious Experience*](#)

[*Moses and Monotheism*](#)

[*The Future of an Illusion*](#)

Jung, Carl
Durkheim, Emil,
Weber, Max,

[*The Portable Jung*](#)

[*Elementary Forms of Religious Life*](#)

[*The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*](#)

[*Sociology of Religion*](#)

Niebuhr, Richard H,
Wach, Joachim,

[*The Social Sources of Denominationalism*](#)

[*Sociology of Religion*](#)

Jordan, Louis Henry

[*Comparative Religion: Its History and Growth*](#)

[*Comparative Religion its Adjuncts and Allies.*](#)

[*Comparative Religion in recent literature*](#) Vol. 1

Journals: Many academic journals carry articles on research methods and theories. Explore these through the University Library.

Films: Students may be asked to watch some films on academic research can theorizing. These will be announced and discussed later in the course.

How the Course Will Work: The course has three basic components. These are: 1) Seminars; 2) Readings; and 3) Films.

Learning technologies and requirements: Class presentations will use overhead projectors and power point slide shows.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assignment	Weight
To be scheduled	Make a class presentation of 15 minutes plus 10 minutes discussion. Using Power Point slides.	30%
14 February	Submit a short, blog style, response, of around 300 words, to a selected reading.	15%
14 March	Submit a second short response to a different selected reading.	15%
31 March	Final essay due This essay should discuss	40%

the role of theory in the study of religion.

Students are required to type their papers and use the Harvard system of references. The Harvard system uses in text notes e.g. (Hexham, *Zulu Religion*, 1987, p.6) then for subsequent references (Hexham, 1987:71). 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 sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note.

N.B. There is no registrar scheduled final examination

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

Adjusted Grades: The instructor will implement .5% as a standard measure of adjustment for grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments: If a student misses an assignment or test, the student will be provided an opportunity to make up the missing material. If they fail to do so they will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Expectations for student conduct in this course: Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer them toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for email correspondence in this course: Email must be sent from a UofC email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail.

Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course

outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

Power Point Slides: For copyright reasons many power point slides and lecture notes will not be posted on D2L. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. These restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

Some recorded lectures will be posted on D2L but only certain ones. Similarly, certain power point slides, i.e. those that do not include limited use materials, will be posted to D2L. It is your responsibility to pay attention and make your own lecture notes. There is also a growing body of evidence that shows students who write their notes by hand do better than one's who rely on the use of computer's in class. Note taking is a skill.

Electronic Device Policy: Laptops are permitted during class if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use lap-tops during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6: "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, "Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion." Regulation E.6 includes a statement on the Copyright Act: "The Copyright Act and the copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors."

Office hours: Office hours are structured in 15-minute appointments. If a student is not able to meet with the instructor during office hours, the student may request to meet at an alternative time during department hours. Appointments for meetings outside of office hours must be requested in person before or after class, followed by an email request.

Syllabus: A complete syllabus will be made available early in the term.

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: The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

D2L - Desire 2 Learn Help: If you have any problems with D2L please go to:

<http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>

This is the Student Help and FAQ's about D2L website. 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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at 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 (FOIPPA): <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 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 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.