

The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Religious Studies  
Winter 2012

Religious Studies 577 L01 Senior Project Seminar  
“Going Public: Taking Religious Studies Beyond the Classroom”

Class day & time T 2:00 – 4:45pm in SS 1332  
Instructor Dr. Virginia Tumasz  
Office SS 1302  
Office Hours M 2:00 – 3:00pm or by appointment  
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### Course Description

This is a capstone course that is meant to encourage you to engage in two activities: 1) reflection on your degree in Religious Studies or Religious Studies and Applied Ethics as you approach its completion, and 2) application and communication of your knowledge about religion to the wider University or academic community or communities outside of academia, i.e., you will go public with your expertise in Religious Studies.

### Course Procedure

The class will meet once a week on Tuesdays. Students will share ideas of projects in development and report on completed projects at these meetings. The time can also be used to confer about collaborative projects and to discuss possibilities and details of projects with the instructor.

### Course requirements

20% for reporting and participation at class meetings

Attendance at all meetings is expected. Students will be asked to report on their activities and to give feedback to their peers. Students must submit a progress report on their activities each week that will constitute the basis of their reports to the class.

The grade given for this requirement will take into account preparation for the meetings, including the regular submission of progress reports, and active participation at the meetings.

80% for three self-designed projects

Students will design and carry out three projects that take Religious Studies outside the classroom. Possibilities include editing a Wikipedia article, having a paper accepted for presentation at the annual University of Lethbridge Undergraduate Religious Studies Conference, giving a presentation at an educational, religious or some other kind of public institution or place of business, creating a website documenting places of religious significance in Calgary, contributing in a significant way to the department’s Facebook page or starting a twitter-feed or blog, canvassing the campus community about their impressions of Religious Studies . . . the possibilities are endless.

**Grading weight of projects:** The value of each project will be set by the student and agreed upon by the professor within the parameters that no project will be worth less than 15% and all three will total 80%.

**Deadlines for Project Proposals, Completion of Projects, and Reports:**

Students must submit proposals for all projects by means of the Project Proposal Template.

All proposals require approval by the instructor.

One proposal must be submitted by January 24 and all three must be submitted and approved by February 28.

One project must be completed no later than February 14, another by March 27, and the third by April 10.

Failure to meet any of the above deadlines without obtaining an extension from the instructor will result in a penalty of one full letter grade on the project in each instance.

Students must report on all three projects while working on them and at completion. Failure to give a full report on a project in class will result in a reduction of one full letter grade for the project.

**Large projects:**

If a student comes up with an idea for one large project, s/he can divide the larger project into distinct components to arrive at the three required projects.

Students can propose to work together on a team project so long as they specify the division of duties and the means of assessment of individual contributions.

*\*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

**Core competencies**

Some of the skills that students can expect to develop in completing the work for this course include:

- Thinking outside the box
- Application of knowledge attained in the degree program to ‘real-world’ situations
- Organization of material for presentation
- Oral presentation
- Written communication
- Independent research

**Grading:**

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course (with the above-noted exception of the weekly written responses) according to the University’s “Undergraduate Grading System,” which appears in the University Calendar:

A+	4.00	Outstanding.
A	4.00	Excellent - superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	

C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

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**

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 the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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](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](mailto: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 new 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Office of the Student Ombuds 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.