

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 577 L01	Senior Project Seminar “Going Public: Taking Religious Studies Outside the Classroom”
Winter 2013	TR 11:00am-12:15pm in SS 1332
Instructor	Dr. Virginia Tumasz
Office	SS 1302
Office Hours	TR 12:15-12:45pm or by appointment
Telephone	403-220-3286
E-mail	tumasz@ucalgary.ca

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. In other words, I want you to think about what you’ve accomplished in your program and I want you to go public with your acquired expertise.

Course Procedure

The class will meet once a week on Tuesday afternoons. Students will share budding ideas about projects and work 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

30% for reporting and participation at class meetings

Attendance at all meetings is expected. Missing a session or any significant part of a session without permission from the instructor will result in a penalty of 3% of your final grade.

The grade for this component of the course will take into account preparation for meetings, including assigned research during the first month, preparing progress reports to be delivered at each session, and active participation in discussion during the class meetings.

Assignments will be given during the first few weeks of class that will involve doing some web-based research on Religious Studies programs and mission statements and reporting back to the group. Failure to prepare adequately for such presentations will result in a penalty of 5% in each instance.

Students must deliver an oral report on their activities each week. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their ideas for projects, report on projects that are underway, seek advice from their peers and the instructor, and give feedback and support to their peers.

70% for three self-designed projects

Students will design and carry out three projects that in some way take Religious Studies beyond 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 talk 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.

All projects require the approval of the instructor.

N.B. Projects that require interviews may require ethics approval at the Faculty level. More detail regarding this requirement will be given in class.

Grading weight of projects: The value of each project will be proposed by the student and negotiated with the instructor, within the parameters that no project will be worth less than 15% and all three will total 70%.

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

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

One proposal must be submitted by January 29 and all three must be submitted by February 26.

One project must be completed no later than February 26. All three must be completed by April 9.

The instructor, upon review of proposals, may make suggestions for changes and in some instances require amendments to some components of the project proposal.

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 in each instance.

Students must report in class on all three projects while working on them and at completion. Failure to give a full final 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. This requires approval of the instructor.

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 according to the University's "Undergraduate Grading System," which appears in the University Calendar:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
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	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
*D+	1.30	
*D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.
**I	0	Incomplete - unsatisfactory (effective January 2007).

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/bbbs_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 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. 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 3rd 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 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.