

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall/Winter 2017/2018**

**Course:** RELS 590 Honours Thesis (Tutorial)  
**Instructor:** Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD  
**Office Hours:** One hour per week to accommodate weekly meetings; to be determined by the instructor and student  
**Office:** SS 516  
**E-mail:** cwcginn@ucalgary.ca  
**Telephone:** 220-5695

**Required Text(s):**

Required readings for this course will consist of a reading list to be determined in consultation between the student and the instructor.

**Course Description:**

RELS 590 Honours Thesis requires that the student complete course work over two semesters under the close supervision of a member of the Department of Classics and Religion. At the conclusion of the first semester the student's preparatory work and participation will form the basis of their assessment. At the conclusion of the second semester, the student will submit a completed thesis of approximately 40,000 words on or before the first day of the Registrar scheduled final examination period. Within two weeks of the submission, the student will defend their thesis before an examining committee.

This course will explore Near Death Experiences (NDEs), examining both testimonial and evaluative sources in an effort to understand the phenomenon of NDEs as religious experience. The student will narrow the research focus by the end of the Fall 2017 term.

**Online elements for this course:**

The student will conduct online research to explore sources, databases, and materials that inform their research.

**Core Competencies:**

The purpose of the Honours Thesis is to provide students with the experience, albeit at the undergraduate level, of the type of independent research required for graduate work. Therefore, the honours thesis and oral defence are modelled after the requirements of the Masters Thesis.

## Course Requirements:

Assessment	Date/ Timeline
Initial statement of research interest and methodological approach(es)	October 19
Regular meetings. The student is expected to prepare for each meeting as required by the supervisor. Normally the supervisor and student will determine an agenda for each meeting in advance. Meetings may be rescheduled by the instructor or the student.	Fall 2017: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7 Winter 2018: January 11, 18, February 1, 15, March 1, 15, 29, April 5, 12
Reading report. The student will be required to submit a reading report. The instructor will test the student's knowledge of the report at the next scheduled meeting.	November 9
Literature review. The submission must demonstrate the student's knowledge of principal works in the field.	November 30
Research proposal and bibliography. The instructor will test the student's research proposal at the next scheduled meeting.	December 7
Written submissions of thesis work. The student will submit work-to-date to the instructor for feedback.	February 1 Draft 1 (partial) March 1 Draft 2 (partial) March 15 Draft 3 (complete)
Examining committee selection	Approximately one month prior to the end of classes
The student will submit copies of the thesis to each member of the examining committee. The thesis should be approximately 40 pages double-spaced (12,000 words).	On or before the first day of the Registrar scheduled final examinations.
Oral examination	Approximately two weeks after the submission of the thesis.

There will be no registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

## Grading:

The examining committee will strive for a consensus on the grade, which will become the official grade for RELS 590.

First Class Honours requires:

- 1) Grade of A+, A, or A- on the Thesis (RELS 590) AND
- 2) at least 3.30 GPA on all courses and on all RELS courses over the last 15 FCEs.

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

**Policy with regard to late submissions:**

As submissions are not graded, late submissions will not be deducted marks. However, it is in the student’s best interest to meet the target dates for all submissions to allow the instructor sufficient time to provide feedback.

**Expectations for email correspondence in this course:**

Email must be sent from a U of C 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. The student 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.

**Syllabus:**

The course outline and Honours Program Guidelines provide a schedule for RELS 590. While there is some flexibility in the timeline for preparatory work, the student must adhere to the scheduling identified in the Honours Program Guidelines leading up to and including the oral defence.

**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](http://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](http://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.

### **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.