

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies
Fall 2011

Religious Studies 595.59 L01
Directed Independent Study
Psychology and Religion: Freud on Religion

Instructor: Dr. Virginia Tumasz
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Texts

Sigmund Freud. "Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices" (1907).

_____. *Totem and Taboo* (1913).

_____. *The Future of an Illusion* (1927).

_____. *Civilization and its Discontents* (1930).

_____. *Moses and Monotheism* (1939).

Additional readings will be assigned, the specific ones to be determined in consultation with students enrolled in the course and dependent on their chosen research areas.

Course Description

This course is a reading course focused on the study of Freud's theory of religion. We will meet together to discuss texts written by Freud and about Freud.

Students will be expected to report regularly on the work that they are doing towards their final research project during the second half of the term and to present their conclusions during the final meeting of the term.

Core Competencies

Students will develop the following skills in completing the work for this course:

- careful and critical reading of texts
- critical analysis of ideas
- oral and written communication
- independent research.

Requirements

50% for attendance and weekly written assignments

- These assignments will be weighted equally in calculating the total of 50% of the final grade.
- One student will write a brief summary of the reading for the week and email it to the other student and the professor at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting.
- The other student will note important omissions and raise questions about the interpretation presented in the summary.
- Both students will include a section of questions about the text in their written submission, which will include two (or more) well-articulated questions that will be used to facilitate discussion of the text during our meeting.
- You will be assigned one or the other task (summary or response) at least one week prior to each meeting.
- Assignments must be handed in prior to or at the beginning of our meetings. In no case will they be accepted afterward as this would defeat the purpose of the assignment, which is preparation for discussion.

50% for final essay and presentation of essay in class

- Your research essay, due December 5, is expected to be 12 to 15 pages in length (3600 - 4000 words). Late essays will be penalized by a decrease of one grade per day (A will be reduced to A-) unless you have received an extension from me.
- You are free to choose any topic relevant to the content of the course but you must obtain my approval of your topic and research question. Your paper will not be accepted unless you have done so.
- You will be asked to talk about your research throughout the second half of the term and to present your conclusions in the final meeting of the course. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of a full letter grade (from A to B) of the course grade.
- In grading the essay, I will take into account the sophistication of your research and analysis as well as writing style and the use and documentation of sources. Your essay should have a bibliography of at least seven sources and include recent articles from academic journals.
- Please use the MLA style of documentation.
- You will be encouraged to present your paper at the U of Lethbridge undergraduate conference in May.

N.B. All written assignments will be assessed with regard to both content (i. e., careful and critical analysis and reflection) and form (i. e., presentation, spelling, grammar, and organization).

Grading

A letter grade will be assigned to each requirement according to the “Undergraduate Grading System” 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).

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.

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 (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.