

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**Fall 2007**

July 31, 2007

Course: Religious Studies 601.03/701.03  
 Miracle-Workers, Holy Men, Martyrs & Saints

Time: T 9:00 – 11:50

Instructor: Anne Moore

Office Hours: R10:00 – 12:00; W 10:00 – 3:30

E-Mail: [amoore@ucalgary.ca](mailto:amoore@ucalgary.ca)

Office: Social Sciences 1324

Telephone: 220-3288

Textbooks:

- 1) Burrus, Virginia. ed. *Late Antiquity Christianity*. Vol. 2, *A People's History of Christianity*. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2005.
- 2) Howard-Johnston, James and Paul Antony Hayward. eds. *The Cult of Saints in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages: Essays on the Contribution of Peter Brown*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. Repr. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- 3) Perkins, Judith. *The Suffering Pain: Pain and Narrative Representation in Early Christian Era*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- 4) Handout with the Primary Texts: *Apocryphal Acts of Peter*, Martyrology of Peter of Alexandria, and Hagiography of Pelegia.
  - a. Brock, Sebastian P. and Susan Ashbrook Harvey. Trans. "Pelagia of Antioch." Pages 40-62 in *Holy Women of the Syrian Orient*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
  - b. Schneemelcher, Wilhelm. *The Acts of Peter*. Pages 271-321 in Vol. 1 of *New Testament Apocrypha*, Edited by Wilhelm Schneemelcher. Translated by R. McL. Wilson. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992. Translation of *Neutestamentliche Apokryphen*. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1989.
- 5) Handout with three articles by Peter Brown.
  - a. Brown, Peter. "The Rise and Function of the Holy Man in Late Antiquity." *The Journal of Roman Studies* 61 (1971): 80-101. <http://www.jstor.org/>
  - b. Brown, Peter. "The Rise and Function of the Holy Man in Late Antiquity, 1971-1997." *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 6.3 (1998): 353-75.
  - c. Brown, Peter. "The Saint as Exemplar in Late Antiquity." *Representations* 1.2 (1983): 1-24. <http://www.jstor.org/>.

Course Description:

Whether the figure is categorized as a Holy Person, Saint, Shaman, Miracle-Worker, Magician, Apostle, or Martyr, most religions have human figures who are endowed with special status. This course will examine the various permutations of this figure within Christianity of Late Antiquity (200-800 CE). The course will approach this examination through three overarching methodological lenses. They are: 1) the use of historical and literary approaches for the comprehension and analysis of literary texts written about holy figures. The primary texts under examination will include texts drawn from the genres of apocrypha Acts, martyrologies, and hagiographies. The secondary sources will introduce the scholarly techniques used in reading these texts as part of an effort to comprehend the world view of the early readers and communities associated with the texts, and as part of the endeavor of the historical reconstruction of the life of the holy figure. 2) the use of sociological theories for comprehending the function of the holy figure within and for the community. The focus will be on the social role performed by the holy figure. 3) the analysis of material culture available based on archaeological artifacts in terms of architecture, art, and ritual or devotional objects. The concentration will be on how material culture, once restored to its worship or devotional context, provides additional understanding of the social placement of the holy figure with the religious community.

## Course Competencies

This is a graduate level seminar; therefore, the focus will be on:

- 1) the comprehension, analysis, and application of diverse methodological approaches to a given area of research.
- 2) the evaluation and critical discussion of the specific results produced by the diverse methodological approaches.
- 3) the logical presentation of one's analysis and critical discussion in both written and oral forms.
- 4) the development of specific written formats required for academic writing.

### Course Outline:

The following outline will be considered a provisional guide only to the content of the course.

September 11	Introduction to the Course
September 18/25	Deciphering the Texts: Primary Texts: <i>Acts. Peter</i> Secondary Texts: Perkins' <i>The Suffering Self</i>
October 2/9	Deciphering the Figure Primary Texts: Peter of Alexandria and Pelagia Secondary Texts: Peter Brown's articles Parts I and II in Howard-Johnston and Hayward's <i>The Cult of Saints</i>
October 23/30	Deciphering the Cult Primary Texts: Peter of Alexandria and Pelagia Secondary Texts: Burrus (selected articles) Parts III & IV in Howard-Johnston and Hayward's <i>The Cult of Saints</i>
November 6	Presentations of Seminar Research
November 27	Presentations of Seminar Research
December 4	Text, Figure and Cult: Summary

### Course Requirements:

#### 1. Book Review (**Due: October 9, 2007**)

**15%**

One of the basic tasks of academic scholarship is the composing of book reviews for purposes of either research or publication. This exercise will use the model of a book review intended for journal publication. The book review will be 1,500 – 2000 words, double-spaced, and in Chicago format. The book review will both summarize the contents and provide a brief comment of the either the book's possible audience or its position within a specific scholarly debate.

#### 2. Seminar Participation (**Due: TBA**)

**30%**

Rels 601 Students:

- a. Three summaries of selected secondary articles or book chapters. These summaries will be 1,500 – 2,000 words, doubled-spaced, and in Chicago format. There will be one summary for each of the sections of the course – Deciphering Text, Figure, and Cult. The summary will be in thesis-format with a discussion of the thesis of the article, the construction of the thesis argument, and a comment on the implications of the article for the study of holy figures.

Rels 701 Students

- a. Three essays in which you synthesize the methodological insights derived from specific articles and apply these insights to aspects of the primary texts. These essays will be 1,500 –

2,000 words, doubled-spaced, and in Chicago format. There will be one essay for each of the sections of the course – Deciphering Text, Figure, and Cult.

### 3. Research Paper

- a. Abstract with Annotated Bibliography (**Due: October 9, 2007**) **10%**  
The abstract should contain the following information: title, area of research, issue to be addressed, methodological approach in terms of specific theories or scholars, and tentative thesis. The abstract will be 500 – 750 words, double-spaced and in Chicago format. The format resembles that required for paper or conference submissions. The annotated bibliography will contain a minimum of one primary text, three methodological books or articles, and ten other books and articles on the area of research.
- b. Research Paper (**Due: December 4, 2007**) **35%**  
The paper will be between 15-20 pages, double-spaced, and in Chicago format. The paper will have the following sections: Discussion of the issue under consideration, history of the debate or issue, methodological approach, summary of the primary text, thesis argumentation, and implication of thesis for the history of the debate or issue.
- c. Presentation/Response to Research (**November 6 or 27, 2007**) **10%**  
Rels 601 – This will involve the presentation of a dilemma or unresolved problem that encountered in one's research. The idea is to use the expertise of one's peers to assist in one's own research. The student will need to familiarize the seminar participants with the specific issue, area of research, methodological approach, and the dilemma or problem under consideration.  
Rels 701 – This will involve responding in a critical and constructive manner to one of the Rels 601 presentations. The idea is to provide one's expertise so as to facilitate discussion and to aid in the research of one's peers.

#### Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final examination, a letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

#### Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

#### Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

#### Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

#### Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

#### Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

#### 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>.