

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies**

August 10, 2007

**RELS 605.08/705.08 L01
Religion after Modernity
October 11-17th 2007 (Fall Time-Intensive course)**

Dr. Darlene Juschka
Meeting: SS 1332
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This graduate level course examines four different theoretical locations; postpatriarchy, postmodernism, poststructuralism and postcolonialism, and their importance to the study of religion. The course engages each theoretical location according to intersections with modernity, epistemological assertions, theoretical import, and implications for the study of religion. Further to the understanding of the four “posts” the writings of some of their more recognized proponents are read.

* While RELS 605.08 and 705.08 meet together as one seminar and the requirements are the same, work by PhD students will be graded at a higher standard appropriate to the doctoral level.

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to critical thinking within the area of Religious Studies.
2. To introduce the students to theoretical thinking in Religious Studies.
3. To challenge students to read against the grain of their own cultural knowledge.
4. To further critical reading skills and enhance expression of ideas.
5. To develop new analytical lenses such as feminism, anti-racism, post-colonialism, etc.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Easthope, Antony and McGowan (eds.) (2004). *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader*. 2nd Edition. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press. (Henceforth *CCT Reader*)
2. Malpas, Simon and Paul Wake (2004). *The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory*. New York and London: Routledge. (Henceforth *RCC Theory*)
3. Taussig, Michael (2004). *My Cocaine Museum*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

HANDOUTS

1. Hamilton, Peter (1996). “The Enlightenment and the Birth of Social Science.” In Stuart Hall, *et al* (eds.), *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, 19-54. Cambridge: Blackwell.
2. Held, David (1996). “The Development of the Modern State.” In Stuart Hall, *et al* (eds.), *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, 55-89. Cambridge: Blackwell.

REQUIREMENTS

1. In class presentation with accompanying write-up to any **two** units (20% each) **40%**
2. Book review of *My Cocaine Museum* **20%** **Due October 24, 2007**

3. Outline (10%) and theoretical essay (30%) **40%**

Due Oct 30 / Dec 12, 2007

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The morning is reserved for lecture and discussion, while the afternoon for student presentations and further discussion. All readings should be done ahead of class.

Oct 11 (am) **Introduction: Enlightenment and Modernity**

Readings: Hamilton, Peter (1996). "The Enlightenment and the Birth of Social Science." In Stuart Hall, *et al* (eds.), *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, 19-54. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Oct 11 (pm) **Introduction: Engaging Modernity**

Readings: Primary sources: Introduction, 33-36, Marx, 37-38; Marx and Engels, 39-41; Althusser, 42-50; Zizek, 70-72.
Secondary sources: Held, David (1996). "The Development of the Modern State." In Stuart Hall, *et al* (eds.), *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, 55-89. Cambridge: Blackwell. Daly, 28-42 in *RCC Theory*.

Oct 12 **Unit 1: Postpatriarchy: Feminism and Gender**

1. Finding Only Men in the Human
2. Feminist Hermeneutics
3. Proposing a World That Includes Women

Readings: Primary sources: De Beauvoir, 51-54; Cixous, 157-166; Mulvey, 167-176; Rajan, 184-190; and Butler, 191-196 in *CCT Reader*.
Secondary Sources: Heckman pgs. 91-101 and Hall, pgs. 102-114, in *RCC Theory*.

Oct 15 **Unit 2: Postmodernity: Engaging the Modern West**

1. The Truth of Truth
2. Contexts and Universalisms
3. Transcendent and Immanent: The View from Far and Near

Readings: Primary sources: Section 6 in *CCT Reader*, 203-234.
Secondary Sources: Wake, 14-27; Malpas, 55-65; Hutcheon, 115-126; and Introduction Difference, 113-119 and Derrida 120-142 *RCC Theory*.

Oct 16 **Unit 3 Poststructuralism: Structures and Language**

1. The Linguistic Turn: Language as Modelling
2. The Turn to Culture: Representation
3. The Signifying Monkey and Other Strange Tales

Readings: Primary sources: Semiology Introduction, 3-4; Saussure, 5-11; Barthes, 12-14; Eco, 24-27; Introduction Subjectivity, 73-76; Freud, 77-80; Lacan, 81-86; Kristeva, 90-93; Foucault, 94-101 & 102-107 in *CCT Reader*.
Secondary Sources: McGowan, 3-13; Belsey, 43-54; and Lapsley, 66-80 in *RCC Theory*.

Oct 17

Unit 4 Postcolonialism: Power and Difference

1. The Creation of the “West”
2. Resisting Minds and Bodies
3. Self-reflection and Accountability

Readings: Primary sources: Introduction Gender and Race, 143-147; Said, 55-61; Bhabha, 62-69; Fanon, 87-89; Mercer, 177-183; and Bhabha, 197-202 in *CCT Reader*.

Secondary Sources: Benjamin, 81-90 and Amoko, 127-140 in *RCC Theory*.

Presentation and Write-Up (20 minutes/ 2-3 pages per presentation)

The presentation and write-up will be done individually. In the oral presentation and its write-up you are to examine in some detail a particular issue, concept, or theoretical implication related to one of the four “posts,” and then secondarily endeavour to apply it to a system of belief or the theoretical study of religion. For example, the application can be a brief case study, e.g., gender in Minoan systems of belief, or it can intersect with a theoretical development, e.g., gender as a category of analysis in theories of Minoan systems of belief.

The presentation will be a process of determining and making clear issues you have raised. The write-up of the oral presentation will be a brief exposé on the most salient issues raised in your discussion. Your work will be assessed in relation to clarity, depth of analysis, originality, and sophistication of argumentation. The write-up is due on the day you present.

Critical Book Review (1500-2000 words or 6-8 pgs.) **Due Oct 24, 2007**

You will be expected to write a book review on Taussig’s text *The Cocaine Museum*. Critical book reviews require that you not only provide some sense of the book under review and its intentions, but also engage what you might deem the strengths and weakness—both of which you will have to demonstrate. A critical book review requires a thoughtful and analytical approach, one that moves beyond description.

Outline and Theoretical Essay (3750-5000 words or 15-20 pgs.) **Outline and bibliography due October 30, 2007; Final paper due Dec 12, 2007.**

The research paper is to be a critical engagement with one of the four “posts” and its applicability and usefulness in the study of religion. You will need to 1. show cognizance of its historical development; 2. identify the main theoretical formations; 3. speak to the implications and significance for knowledge in general; and 4. speak to the implications and significance for the study of religion in particular. The paper is to be in academic format with a developed bibliography. You **may** use the internet to find material on your subject and you **may** use academic information (journals and newspaper articles) found on the internet, but **do not** use non-academic web-sites as sources for your research. The first part of your paper requires that you hand in a detailed outline that includes a thesis statement, the organizational format of the paper and a developed bibliography. Check the MLA handbook or the Chicago Style Manual if you are unsure of how to do a formal outline. Your outline and paper will be evaluated in light of content, style and structure, logic, and level of sophistication. The second part of the assignment is your research paper. The paper is to be in academic format with a developed bibliography (no less than 15 references).