

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE WINTER TERM 2017
RELS 607
SUPERVISED MASTER'S THESIS INQUIRY**

INSTRUCTOR: Irving Hexham
CLASS TIME AND ROOM: To be arranged with the student – SS538
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS: Not applicable
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WEB SITE: <http://www.understandingworldreligions.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a graduate tutorial based on regular meetings to discuss the student's progress and plans for writing a thesis. It is based on oral discussions of the relevant literature and oral examinations with a final written assignment.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- 1) Understand the research process and what is involved in writing a thesis
- 2) Discuss the various methods used in the study of religion
- 3) Write an academic style thesis chapters.
- 4) Prepare their thesis chapters for presentation at an academic conference.
- 5) Re-write their thesis chapters for publication in academic journals
- 6) Gain the ability to present and defend an MA thesis

READINGS:

Selected papers and readings	
Anselm Strauss & Juliet Corbin	<i>Basics of Qualitative Research</i>
Rodney Stark & Lynne Roberts	<i>Contemporary Social Research Methods</i>
Hans Kippenberg	<i>Discovering Religious History in the Modern</i>
G.R. Elton	<i>The Practice of History</i>
John Vincent	<i>The Intelligent Person's Guide to History</i>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular discussions with supervisor
Regular questioning and oral examinations
A final written assignment of 2,500 words summarizing the proposed thesis

Grading

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2016-2017:

A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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.

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.

Graduate Student Association Ombudsperson

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 for more information.

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.