

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL 2012 COURSE OUTLINE**

Religious Studies 609.04 L01:	Critical Discourses in the Study of Religion
Time and Date of Class:	R 14:00-16:45
Instructor:	M. Joy
Office:	SS 1318
Office Hours:	T 3:00-4:00pm
Phone:	403-220-7995
Email:	mjoy@ucalgary.ca

Set Texts

Richard Horsley *Religion and Empire*, Fortress Press, 2003.
Charles Taylor, *Modern Social Imaginaries*, Duke University Press, 2004.

Select Bibliography from which extracts will be taken:

D. N. Hopkins, L.A. Lorentzen et al. (Eds.), *Religions/ Globalizations: Theories and Cases*, Duke University Press, 2001.
Richard Horsley, *Religion and Empire*, Fortress Press, 2003.
Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu (Eds.), *Appropriating Gender*, Routledge, 1998.
Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*, Routledge, 1997.

Books on Reserve

Ivan Strenski *Thinking About Religion: An Historical Introduction to Theories of Religion*
Daniel L. Pals *Eight Theories of Religion*

Course Description:

This course will examine contemporary issues that are of relevance for the study of religion. It will assume a basic knowledge of method and theory, and will be based on readings from recent books that discuss these issues from various perspectives. Such a course will provide graduate students with an awareness of the larger debates that are informing present day global society, and the contribution that scholars of religion can make to these debates.

Course Format:

The course will include lectures and class discussion. Each week certain students will be asked to prepare questions from the assigned readings for the class discussion.

Blackboard:

The blackboard system will be used for communication, reporting grades on papers, and posting notes and announcements.

Core Competencies:

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas in both written assignments and oral presentations.

Requirements: 4 short essays of 9-10 pages 15% each
 Due dates: Sept. 27; Oct. 18; Nov. 8; Nov. 29
 1 final essay due at the last class 40%

Grading :

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2011-2012:

- 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
- C 2.0
- C- 1.7
- D+ 1.3
- D 1.0
- F 0.0: 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.

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.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online-services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

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 for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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.