

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

RELS 609.06 L01: *Theories of Religion*

WINTER 2015

Place and Time: EEEL 151, Monday 2:00 - 4:45.

Instructor: David A. Bergen, SS540, 403-220-7063, dabergen@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Monday 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

Required Textbooks:

Contemporary Theories of Religion: A Critical Companion (ed. Stausberg)

Theories of Religion: A Reader (ed. Kunitz)

The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of Religion (McCutcheon/Arnal)

The Invention of World Religions: Or, How European Universalism was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism (Masuzawa)

Content and Objectives:

A critical examination of various theories used in the academic study of religion.

Online elements for this course:

A schedule of assigned readings and assessments, as well as updates and announcements will be posted in D2L.

Assessments:

Two Formal Contributions to Class Discussion - 10% each

Students will lead two class discussions on assigned readings. Contributions will be scheduled at the start of the term.

Two Comparative Essays – 20% each

Two essays, comparing three theories/theorists of religion, 8-10 pages in length. Essay due dates: February 9 and March 9.

Final Essay - 40%

A 20-25 page analytical essay on a topic to be decided by March 1st. Due on Friday, April 17th.

N.B. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Grading Scale:

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2014-2015:

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	

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

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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

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.