

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

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

Course: RELS 609 L02: Critical Discourse in the Study of Religion
Time: Tuesday 2:00-4:45 PM
Instructor: E. Segal
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 or by appointment
Office: SS 548
E-mail: eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: 403.220.3279

Required Text(s):

Strenski, Ivan, ed. *Thinking About Religion: A Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.

Strenski, Ivan. *Understanding Theories of Religion*. Second edition. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons, 2015.

Course Description:

Works by scholars representing different approaches to the study of religion will be examined in detail and discussed critically

Core Competencies:

- Participate in seminar-style discussion, arguing for and against positions.
- Develop skills in critical reading.
- Analyze scholarly theories and methodologies, learning how to construct, evaluate and apply valid arguments.
- Effectively present readings and your own research in written and oral form.
- Carry out original research.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
To be scheduled individually:	Leading a class discussion about one of the readings.	10%
February 7 2017	Two short responses (approx. 300 words) to selected readings.	15%
March 14 2017		15%
March 21 2017	Research proposal with preliminary bibliography.	10%
April 13 2017	Major research essay (approx. 6,000 words), applying theories learned in the course to religion-related cases or phenomena.	50%

There will be no registrar scheduled final examination in this course.

Grading

Graduate Grading System for Course Final Grades

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below “B-” are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Assignment dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without *prior* arrangement with the instructor, missed assignments will be awarded an ‘F’. Late submission of assignments will be penalized.

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This is a seminar course which requires students to be present for all classes and participate fully. Your performance and input into class discussions, responses and presentations will inform the grade for the presentation assessment. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions.

Electronic Device Policy:

Although respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed, if students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only (i.e., under normal circumstances: *never*). Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

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.