

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF Arts
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
WINTER TERM 2017 - RELS. 685-01
Approaching the Study of New Religious Movements

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Objectives of the Course:

This is a graduate tutorial that will introduce students to the study of religion with a particular emphasis on research methods and theories used to understand new religious movements. It will incorporate a number of audio-visual discussions linking the student with fellow students and faculty at other universities in North America and Europe. This core tutorial will be enhanced through online conversations and presentations using Internet based technologies.

Course competencies

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

- a) effectively use anthropological/sociological and historical methods for the study of New Religious Movements (NRMS);
- b) discuss various theoretical explanations for the rise of NRMS;
- c) critically discuss appropriate ways to study NRMS;
- d) appreciate the importance of social and historical contexts for the rise of NRMS;
- e) be able to make informed judgment on the value of specific books and texts;
- f) discuss the social and political context of NRMS

Course Foundations and Expectations

This is a traditional tutorial enhanced by the use of the Internet. In it the professor and graduate student will interact with the material and adjust the discussion, readings, and other work to the topic or topics under discussion. The Internet will be used, as it was the last time I taught this type of course, to broaden the student's understanding and range of contacts.

Practically this means that the student ought to plan for 10 hours of reading and research, including Internet discussions, each week plus 2 hours of writing. Assuming an average reading speed of 20 pages per hour then the normal expectation is that they will read 200 pages per week or a total of 3000 pages throughout the course. Given that the average academic book has between 250 and 350 pages then they ought to expect to read at least ten academic books during this course.

Course Preparation:

The student must familiarize himself with *Endnote* or *Reference Manager* programs. Introductory courses on these software tools are offered by the Library and Teaching and Learning Centre. They will also require a headset with microphone and Internet access in a place where they can talk and join in an online discussion using the Internet.

Course Details

Background Readings:

Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe	<i>New Religions as Global Cultures</i> <i>Understanding Cults and New Religions</i>
Karla Poewe	<i>New Religions and the Nazis</i>
Lorne Dawson	<i>Comprehending Cults</i>

Readings on the research process:

Herbert Spencer	<i>The Study of Sociology</i> [electronic resource]
Tony Buzan	<i>Use Your Head</i> or one of his other books
Jacques Barzun	<i>The Modern Researcher</i>
Rowland, Robin	<i>The creative guide to research</i> [electronic resource] :
Berry, Ralph	<i>The Research project</i> [electronic resource]
Irving Copi	<i>Introduction to Logic</i> – chapters on traditional logic only.
Michael Detlefsen	<i>Logic from A to Z</i> [electronic resource]
Gerard Hauser	<i>An Introduction to Rhetorical Theory</i>
W. Ward Fearnside and William B. Holther	<i>Fallacy: the Counterfeit of Argument</i>
I. M Schlesinger	<i>The structure of arguments</i> [electronic resource]
George A. Kennedy	<i>Classical rhetoric & its Christian & secular tradition from ancient to modern times</i> [electronic resource]
Karl Mannheim	“On the Interpretation of Weltanschauung” and “The Problem of a Sociology of Knowledge” from <i>Essays on sociology of knowledge</i>
Karl Popper	<i>The Myth of Framework</i>
Tri-Council	Policy on Research Ethics Governing Human Subjects

This is found on the Internet at:

<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>

Mindmap program

The nature of historical research

Suggested readings:

G.R. Elton	<i>The Practice of History</i>
Richard J Evans	<i>In Defense of History</i>
Richard J. Evans	<i>Lying about Hitler</i>

Irving Hexham	"Inventing 'Paganists': A Close Reading of Richard Steigmann-Gall's <i>The Holy Reich</i> ," in <i>The Journal of Contemporary History</i> , January, 2007
Irving Hexham	"Violating Missionary Culture: The Tyranny of Theory and the Ethics of Historical Research", in <i>Mission und Gewalt (Mission and the State)</i> , edited by Ulrich van der Heyden, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner Verlag, 2000, pp. 193-206.
Louis R. Gottschalk Leopold von Ranke	<i>Understanding history : a primer of historical method</i> <i>The Secret of world history : selected writings on the arts and science of history</i>
Lord Acton	<i>Lectures on modern history</i> [electronic resource]

The nature of anthropological methods

Suggested Readings:

John Beattie	<i>Understanding an African Kingdom</i>
Thomas RhysWilliams	<i>Field Methods in the Study of Culture</i>
L.L. Langness	<i>The Life History in Anthropological Science</i>
David C. Pitt	<i>Using Historical Sources in Anthropology and Sociology</i>
Earl R Babbie	<i>The practice of social research</i>
James P Spradley	<i>Participant observation</i>
James P Spradley	<i>The Ethnographic interview</i>
Cathy.Lewin	<i>Research methods in the social sciences</i> [electronic resource]
Zina O'Leary	<i>The essential guide to doing research</i> [electronic resource]

A detailed bibliography on new religious movements will be supplied at the beginning of the course.

Course assignments:

Assignment one:

1) Write a 1500 word research proposal describing an intended research topic for a future PhD. This is worth 25% of the final grade.

Assignment two:

2) Write a 1500 word essay critically reflecting on your understanding of the research process. This is worth 25% of the final grade.

Final Assignment:

A 3000 word essay the topic of which will be agreed with the course tutor. This is worth 50% of the final grade.

*** There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam in this course**

All assignments will be given a letter grade according to the Faculty of Graduate Studies grading system.

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.

See also: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/study/plag.html>

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.

The outline submitted did not include these:

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Electronic Device Policy:

Syllabus:

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

Is that typical for independent study courses? -DK