

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2022**

**Course** Religious Studies 705 – Studies in the nature of religion: Existentialism  
**Time** W 12:30 – 15:30  
**Instructor** Dr. Tinu Ruparell  
**Office Hours** W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment  
**Office** SS530  
**E-mail** ruparell@ucalgary.ca  
**Telephone** 4032207069

**Required Text(s):**

Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spake Zarathustra*  
Soren Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*  
Jean-Paul Sartre: *Being and Nothingness*

All of these texts are available as downloads on the D2L site. You are of course free to order paper copies of these texts for yourselves, and the bookstore will have versions of each of these texts. The Hollingdale translation of Nietzsche, the Hannay translation of Kierkegaard, and the Barnes translation of Sartre are useful. For 605/705 students additional texts will be required, to be decided in discussion with students, and may be made available in D2L.

**Optional Text(s):**

Some additional required readings may be assigned and will be made available either through the D2L site or in class.

**Course Description:**

An examination of existentialist thinkers from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, contextualizing their work within both modernity and theist/atheist discourses.

Modern religions owe much to the thought of, and reaction to, such thinkers as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre and De Beauvoir. This course will consider themes arising from the work of these thinkers towards an understanding of what human authenticity might mean in the context of religion. The central tenets of existentialism will be developed and problematised in response to reading these authors

**Core Competencies:**

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the ambiguous nature of existentialism as well as the challenge it continues to pose to religion. As this is a course in recent religious thought, every attempt will be made to ascertain how existentialism in philosophy, literature, art, film and theatre have impacted the nature of religion. Committed students will gain in their abilities of analysis,

verbal and written communication and critical self-reflection in the context of the study of religion.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA – in consultation with students	In-class presentations	40%
Written essays due in D2L by noon on Dec 1 2022	Final research essay (5k words)	40%
Oral to take place - schedule TBA in consultation with students	Oral Defense (30 minutes)	20%
No registrar scheduled exam; all assessments must be completed for a passing grade in the course		

**Note on Oral Defense:**

The oral examination is meant to be an opportunity for the student to discuss further and thereby strengthen their research essay. It is a way by which feedback on the essay can become a springboard for further analysis and discussion. Questions will be based on the student’s submitted essay, though, of course, some understanding of the authors and issues covered in class and through the assigned readings will be assumed. The aim of the oral is for students to support the essay and verbal performance in the oral will not be assessed.

**Note on in-class presentations:**

As this is a seminar course, students will be expected to have read the assigned readings prior to class and be ready to discuss them thoroughly. Students are expected to be able to read, analyse and comment on the assigned readings and present their thoughts to the class for discussion. The goal is for us to read and interrogate the material together rather than for me to simply lecture on the texts. To facilitate this each student will be required to present a number of short analyses to the class. More information will be provided on the format of these analyses on the first day of class.

**Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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.

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.  
All assessments must be completed for a passing grade in the course.

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

In-class presentation dates are firm. Without acceptable reasons, communicated in advance to the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’. If there is an issue with your assigned date for the presentation, please see me as soon as possible.

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.

LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. Missing the oral examination without acceptable cause (as above) will result in a 15% penalty on the essay as well as an F on the oral exam component. Missing the presentation will result in an F in that component of the final grade.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This course will require students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and presentations and exercises will inform the grade for your paper/presentation and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other form, so if you cannot avoid missing a class, please ask a fellow student for notes which you have missed. Lectures will assume knowledge of the assigned texts and will be analytic in nature.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. While respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed in this course, you are **strongly encouraged not to use them** at all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. **Texting is not permitted in class** and you may leave the room to text in emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities deemed by the instructor not directly relevant to the course, they will be

asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. 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.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY (FOR IN-PERSON COURSES):**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for note-taking and other in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades (Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online* First May 22, 2014). I **strongly urge you not to use them at all in class**. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is prohibited. If students persist in texting, using the web or other activities not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will **not** be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. **No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission.** If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

## **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. **These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit, prior and written consent of the instructor.** The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites, discord servers or any other hosting site without permission is prohibited and may result in an F for the course and/or academic or non-academic misconduct. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-out-lines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk