

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE FALL 2011

RELS 605.06/705.06 L01

PROBLEMS OF MEANING IN PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

INSTRUCTOR M. Joy
CLASS TIME R 1:00-3:45pm
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS SS 1318, R 12.00-1.00 pm or by appointment.
TELEPHONE (403) 220-7995
E-MAIL mjoy@ucalgary.ca

REQUIRED TEXTS

- I. Kant, *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone*
 - F. Schleiermacher, *On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers*
 - P. M. Merklinger, *Philosophy, Theology and Hegel's Berlin Philosophy of Religion*
 - F. Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*
 - E. Levinas, *Ethics and Infinity : Conversations With Philippe Nemo*
 - S. Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*
- One course pack of extracts from Hegel's Lectures also available in Bookstore

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will study certain major figures and texts in the philosophy of religion. Students will be asked to think critically about some of the important questions that have been raised in connection with knowledge, language, gender and religion. The texts will be studied not just with reference to their historical context, but also their continual relevance for today. As the course will be taught in seminar style, students will be presented with a list of terms and crucial ideas so that they will come to class informed for discussion.

CORE COMPETENCIES

As this is a theoretical course which covers developments in the history of philosophy and religion, students will learn both concepts and arguments, and their historical relevance. Students will thus learn to appreciate the critical roles of context; tools of analysis and philosophical exposition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Short essays on 5 out of 6 of the philosophers studied, due one week after philosopher is treated in class. (Approx. 2000 words each). Due: 29th Sept; 13th Oct.; 27th Oct.; 10th Nov.; 24th Nov.; 8th Dec.
..... 50%
- 2) 1 final essay, due 9th December 50%

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.
