

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL 2009 COURSE OUTLINE**

Religious Studies 609/709 – Critical Discourses in the Study of Religion

Time and Date of Class: R 14:00-16:45
Instructor: M. Joy
Office: SS 1318
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 403-220-7995
Email: mjoy@ucalgary.ca

Select Bibliography from which extracts will be taken:

(Will be available for photocopy a week before class)

Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, Princeton University Press, 2005.
Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton University Press, 2000.
G.J. Lawson and E. Deutsch, *Interpreting Across Boundaries*, Princeton University Press, 1988.
D. N. Hopkins, L.A. Lorentzen et al. (Eds.), *Religions/ Globalizations: Theories and Cases*, Duke University Press, 2001.
Richard Horsley, *Religion and Empire*, Fortress Press, 2003.
Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu (Eds.), *Appropriating Gender*, Routledge, 1998.
Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*, Routledge, 1997.

Set Texts

Richard Horsley *Religion and Empire*, Fortress Press, 2003.
Charles Taylor, *Modern Social Imaginaries*, Duke University Press, 2004.
Neither of these texts will be needed until halfway through the term.

Books on Reserve

Ivan Strenski *Thinking About Religion: An Historical Introduction to Theories of Religion*
Daniel L. Pals *Eight Theories of Religion*

Course Description:

This course will examine contemporary issues that are of relevance for the study of religion. It will assume a basic knowledge of method and theory, and will be based on readings from recent books that discuss these issues from various perspectives. Such a course will provide graduate students with an awareness of the larger debates that are informing present day global society, and the contribution that scholars of religion can make to these debates.

Requirements: 4 short essays due at the end of each section 15% each
1 final essay due at the last class 40%

Readings

Week Two

1. M. Joy "Method and Theory in Religious Studies: Retrospect and Prognostication," *Temenos*, 43/2, 2008: 65-88.
2. D. Boyarin "Gender" in *Critical Terms*
3. T. Masuzawa "Culture" in *Critical Terms*

Postcolonialism Revisited

Week Three

1. M. Joy "Is There a Postcolonial Ethics?"
2. Chandra T. Mohanty "Under Western Eyes Revisited," *Signs*, 28/2 (2003): 499-535
3. Youssef Yacoubi, "Thinking Critical Theory of Postcolonial Islam."
4. J.J. Clarke, "Orientalism and Postmodernism."

Week Four

1. David Chidester, "Primitive Texts, Savage Contents," *Method & Theory*, 15(2003): 272-283.
2. Musa Dube, "Postcoloniality, Feminist Spaces and Religion."
3. Maria Lugones, "Playfulness, 'World-Travelling', and Loving Perception," *Hypatia*, 2/2 (1987): 3-19.
4. Marina Ortega, "'New Mestizas,' 'World-Travellers,' and *Dasein*," *Hypatia*, 16/3 (2001): 1-29.

Philosophy and Religion: A Space for Intercultural Dialogue

Week Five

1. M. Joy, "Philosophy and Religion," in *New Approaches to the Study of Religion*. Plus, Introduction to "After Appropriation."
2. Fred Dallmayr, "Sunyata East and West."
3. Eliot Deutsch "Knowledge and the Tradition Text in Indian Philosophy."
4. Hajime Nakamura, "The Meaning of the Terms 'Philosophy' and 'Religion' in Various Traditions."

Week Six

1. "Women's Rights in the Context of Religion," *Svensk religionshistorisk årskrift* [Swedish Yearbook of the History of Religions], April, 2008: 181-200.
2. Daniel A. Bell, "On Being Confucian."
3. Arvind-Pal S. Mandari, "What if *Religio* Remained Untranslatable?"
4. Philip Goodchild, "Politics, Pluralism and the Philosophy of Religion."

Gender and Religion

Week Seven

1. Morny Joy "Gender and Religion: A Volatile Mixture." *Temenos*, 42/1, 2006: 7-30.

2. Ellen Armour, "Beyond Belief: Sexual Difference and Religion after Onto-theology," in *Difference in Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Philip Goodchild.
3. Sylvia Marcos, "Embodied Religious Thought: Gender Categories in Meso-America," *Religion*, 28/4 (1998):
4. Mary Keller, "Raced and Gendered Perspectives: Towards the Epidermalization of Subjectivity in religious Studies."

Week Eight

1. Tanikar Sarkar, "Women, Community, Nation," in Basu and Jeffrey.
2. Uma Narayan, "Restoring History and Politics to 'Third World' Traditions," Ch. 2 in *Dislocating Cultures*, Routledge, 1997.
3. Frances Raday, "Religion and Patriarchal Politics: The Israeli Experience," Ch. 14, *Religious Fundamentalisms and the Human Rights of Women*, Courtney Howland (Ed.), St. Martins, 1997.
4. Mahnaz Afkhami, "Rights of Passage: Women Shaping the Twenty-First Century," *The Future of Women's Rights*, Joanna Kerr et al. (Eds.), Zed Books, 2004.

Week Nine

Read *Religion and Empire* by R. Horsley

Week Ten

1. Dwight Hopkins, "The Religion of Globalization," in D. N. Hopkins, L.A. Lorentzen et al. (Eds.), *Religions/ Globalizations: Theories and Cases*, Duke University Press, 2001.
2. Enrique Dussel, (a) "Beyond Eurocentrism and the World System and the Limits of Modernity," in Jameson and Miyoshi (Eds.) *The Cultures of Globalization* and (b) "The Socio-Historical Meaning of Liberation Theology," in Dwight Hopkins, *Religions/ Globalizations*.
3. Lois Ann Lorentzen, "Who is Indian? Religion, Globalization and Chiapas" in D. N. Hopkins, et al. (Eds.)

Week Eleven

1. I. Mendieta, "Society's Religion, Social Theory and Globalization and the Invention of Religion," in *Religions/ Globalizations*, Dwight Hopkins et al.
2. Sherif Hetata, "Dollarization, Fragmentation, and God," in *Gods, Guns and Globalization*, Denmark (Ed.).
3. Robert Denmark, "Fundamentalism and Global Political Economy," in *Gods, Guns and Globalization*, Denmark (Ed.).
4. William Connolly, "Pluralism and Evil," Ch. I in *Pluralism* (2005).

Week Twelve

1. Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Provincializing Europe," in *Provincializing Europe*.
2. Charles Taylor, *Modern Imaginaries*, Chs. 2, 8-9,10-14.
3. Paul Ricoeur, "Love and Justice," Ch. 21 in *Figuring the Sacred*, Fortress, 1995.