

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Fall 2012

Course: Religious Studies 335 L01
Feasts, Fasts & Rites of Passage: Religious Rituals & Practices
Time: TR 12:30-1:45pm
Instructor: Anne Moore
Office Hours: TR 11:00am-12:00pm, 2:00-3:00pm W 10:00am-12:00pm (except Sept. 26th, Oct. 24th & Nov. 28th)
Office: Social Sciences 1324
Telephone: 403-220-3288
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Textbooks:

Grimes, Ronald L. *The Beginnings in Ritual Studies* 3rd. Waterloo: Ritual Studies International, 2010.
Bell, Catherine. *Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions*. 1997. Repr. Oxford: Oxford Press, 2009.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Ritual Studies, specifically as it has developed within Religious Studies. Ritual is a long-standing interest within Religious Studies; however, detailed studies of rituals and ritual theory did not commence until the 1970s. Prior academic examinations saw ritual as the source of religion, culture, and/or mythology; thus scholars limited ritual to the early stages of social evolution. Scholars viewed ritual as a primitive aspect of civilization that was maintained in the present due to adherence to tradition. However, with the development of social functionalism, anthropologists and sociologists re-evaluated ritual and advocated its significance in maintaining religious cohesion and identity. Currently, ritual is understood as the examination of embodied action or performative phenomenon within a group and, while it tends to be associated with religion, the analysis of rituals now extends to other group activities and provides a lens through which various disciplines may examine, and comprehend diverse social behavior such as; spectator sports, rave parties, bridal showers, goddess circles, and the delivery of babies.

Outcomes:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the assumptions, theories, methods, and approaches used in the study of ritual within Religious Studies. This will include a survey of the early history of the study of ritual and the current theories associated with the field of ritual studies. The course will present a basic understanding of ritual activities including; rites of passage, rites of affliction, calendrical rites, pilgrimage, and rites surrounding food. Further, students, using the various theories, methods and approaches from the contemporary study of ritual, will examine and analyze performative group activities and present their analyses as part of the assignments for the course. Therefore, the course will require students to use their understanding to synthesize, analyze and interpret specific forms of human behavior.

Self-Directed Study

Students are expected to develop skills of time management, organization and independent learning through assigned readings, preparation for exams and in developing a research essay.

Course Requirements:

- 1. Exam. (Tuesday October 16, 2012) 30%**
This exam will evaluate students' comprehension of the basics of ritual studies.
The exam will cover all lecture material from Sept 11-October 11, Grimes. Pp. 1-63; Bell, Pp, 1-169. The format of the exam will include: short answer, definitions, and essay question(s).
- 2. Application essay (Due: November 15, 2012) 25%**
Students will view two films. One on November 6 and another on November 8th.
They will select one of these films for analysis. They will use insights gained from the beginning of the course; along with additional insights introduced in the lectures from October 18-31; and

Grimes, Pp, 65-136. They will write an essay that analyzes the film using insights presented from ritual studies.

The analysis will be presented in thesis-styled essay (1,000 – 1,500 word or 5-6 pages double-spaced in 10 or 12 pt font following Chicago or Turabian style guide. See: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/research-support/citing-writing/popular-citation-styles>.

3. Research Component

a. Research Statement & Annotated Bibliography (**Due: November 20, 2012**) **15%**

Annotated Bibliography will be in proper format following Chicago or Turabian Style guide (see above link) and include:

- One primary source, which will be the group activity one is examining,
- 3 academic journal articles (minimum)
- 3 academic books (minimum). **NOT INCLUDING THE TEXTBOOKS**

The research statement will describe briefly the group activity and the specific insights or questions that the researcher wishes to find using ritual studies. (Minimum: 250 words)

b. Presentation of Research (**Due: December 6, 2012**) **30%**

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of both religious studies and ritual studies, students may select from one of four options for the presentation of their research. More information about the specific requirements for their option will be provided.

- Thesis-styled Paper 2,500 words or 10 pages double-spaced in 10 or 12 pt font.
- Web Site with text, visuals and links.
- Oral Presentation with the incorporation of handouts, Power-point and/or other visuals.
- Creation of a ritual with a description of the actions, sensual environment and an explanation of the actions and environment.

All presentations of research must adhere to Chicago/Turabian Style Guide. All will also be graded for spelling and grammar, and proper format.

The adherence to deadlines is taken as a serious requirement and responsibility of the students in this course.

There will be no Registrar scheduled final examination for this course.

Course Protocol

Research Components and Essay: A penalty of 25% per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late assignments. The application essay, and research components must be delivered physically to the instructor on the assigned due date, unless alternative arrangements have been made. Students are advised to keep a back-up of their own work.

Deferred exams are a privilege and are granted only due to extraordinary circumstances such as a death of a close family member or severe illness. Documentation will be required. Students who miss the exam MUST contact the instructor within 24 hours.

Out of consideration for the class as a whole, there is no extra credit in this course.

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:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

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

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.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

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. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

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.