

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
REVISED COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014**

Course RELS 349 L01 - Religion and Politics
Time MWF - 1-1.50
Place ST 127
Instructor Irving Hexham
TA Rachel Braun
Office Hours M 12-1
Office SS 538
E-mail Religion349@gmail.com
Telephone 403-220-3280

Required Text:

Longerich, Peter. 2012. *Heinrich Himmler*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other required texts dealing with religion and politics worldviews will be posted on the course website either as pdf articles or links to pdf articles available from the University of Calgary Library. The course website can be found at:

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/courses.html>

Optional Text(s):

Various optional readings will be posted on the course website.

Course Description:

The University of Calgary Calendar describes this course as:

A study of the complex relationship between religion and politics, including nationalism and political religions. Topics may include the origin of apartheid in South Africa, Black Theology, the rise of the New Christian Right in America, Hindu and Islamic political movements, and various forms of Fascism including the Nazi movement.

The extended course description reads:

Throughout history religion and politics are closely inter-twined. However, during the twentieth century this complex relationship was increasingly dismissed by the media and political scientists as a result of a confidence in the spread of secularization and the demise of religion. Since the turn of this century no one can doubt that a resurgence in the social role of religion is taking place. This course seeks to investigate the complex relationship between religion and politics and foster an appreciation of the dynamic interaction between religious and political beliefs and movements. At the end of the course students ought to be able to discuss questions relating to religion and politics in an intelligent manner.

This is a traditional university course that emphasizes reading and individual research by the student. It requires approximately 3 hours reading each week. Some weeks the reading will take slightly more than 3 hours, on other weeks it will be slightly less.

Online elements for this course:

The website understandingworldreligions.com provides extensive supporting materials for this course. Importantly it also contains various required texts in pdf format found under the heading of "Courses"

As part of the course students are required to write and submit mini-blogs. These will be posted on the web at: <http://uwreligions.wordpress.com/> They are also expected to submit to the website three comments on mini-blogs by other students. The mini-Blogs are to be sent to the course email as Word documents. The comments can be posted directly to the mini-Blog site.

Core Competencies:

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

- a) appreciate the relationship between religion and politics
- b) understand why some scholars, like Eric Voegelin, Roger Griffin and Emilio Gentile, talk about "political religions."
- c) think critically about religious and political arguments.
- d) appreciate the importance of concepts like myth in the discussion of politics and religion
- e) make informed judgments about specific instances where religions impacts politics.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Blog work			
27 September	First mini-Blog	10%	
11 October	First blog comment	5%	
25 October	Second mini-Blog	10	
8 November	Second blog comment	5%	
29 November	Third mini-Blog	10%	
7 December	Third blog comment	5%	
Same day as mini-Blogs are posted	Tweet about your mini-Blog	5%	
Test and Assignment			
21 November	Test	25%	
5 December	Power Point Presentation to be sent to course email.	25%	

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, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Students must take the test on the assigned day, have a valid medical note, or prove exceptional circumstances. Late papers are accepted, but will be automatically deducted 10% per day that they are overdue. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note or other external evidence of necessity; i.e., if you are allowed to write the test at a later date, the penalty will be a 10% reduction in your mark.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Attendance: students are expected to attend *most* lectures and sign an attendance sheet on a regular basis.

Class etiquette: remember you are not the only student in the class. Please make every effort to arrive on time and not to leave before the class ends. You are expected to pay attention to the lecture and not distract other students.

MP3 Computers and other devices: while attending class the wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted nor are computers to be used for watching videos or playing computer games. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes.

Electronic Device Policy:

Recent evidence shows that students who use computers in class learn significantly less than those who write their own notes. Therefore, the use of computers in class will only be allowed for students who register their use of a computer and submit their course notes to the course email address immediately following the end of each class. If you use a computer in class then failure to submit your course notes on a weekly basis will result in the loss of marks up to 25% of the final grade.

Recording of lectures: For copyright reasons recording any part of any lectures in any form, including through a computer, is not permitted. Nor will the power point slides or lecture notes be posted on the web for the same reason. Photographing power point lectures with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. All of these restrictions are due to copyright issues and are strictly enforced.

Power Point Slides: Due to copyright restrictions not all power point slides can be posted to the web. Those that do not include limited use materials will be posted to:

http://people.ucalgary.ca/~uwr/study_aids_uwr.html

It is your responsibility to pay attention and write down any relevant information or your own comments. This must be done during lectures.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available on the course website during the first week of term.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

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.

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.

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>.

Classics Student Society

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

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.