

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

**Course** RELS 399.11 – Religion & Science Fiction  
**Time** 9am-5pm, TWRFS Fall block-week  
**Instructor** Jonathan Napier  
**TA(s)** None  
**Office** SS 502  
**Office Hours** Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment  
**Email** [janapier@ucalgary.ca](mailto:janapier@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 403-220-5886 (main office)

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016**

**Required Text**

All readings will be posted on D2L or are available online through the University of Calgary's library.

**Course Description**

Please note that this course will run from September 6<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

This course will run from 9:00 am to 5:00pm daily for 5 days. To be successfully in this course students should fully attend, participate and engage in the course throughout its duration. Students should prepare for the course by completing the pre-course readings (posted on D2L). Students should come to class each day with a small journal to write down responses to films shown in class. Note students are expected to hand in this journal on the last day of class.

Students should be aware of the following important regulations concerning Block Week courses: The last day to drop a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the end of the first day of lectures. The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course is the final day of lectures during the Block Week. Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

This is a course designed to explore the manner in which religion manifests in many forms. Often religion transgresses normative boundaries into the realms of the technological, the strange, the paranormal, and the fantastical. We will ask questions like: “what does it mean to be human?” Both religion and science fiction can blur the lines between the mundane, the scientific, the paranormal, the supernatural, and the transcendent. The readings range from scholarly articles who study such phenomena to authors and believers who explore themes of transcendence. Through an analytical study of such experiences and stories we will aim to uncover some of the strange and uncanny ways of religion and science fiction.

**Online Elements for this course:**

Announcements, readings, and marks will be posted online on D2L. Students will hand in assignment on D2L’s “Dropbox” function.

**Core Competencies**

Students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on issues in the study of religion and human nature. Students will be expected to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and peer discussions. Students will develop interpretive skills in their responses to films and other course material. They will also have the opportunity to enhance writing, research, and communication skills. This course will focus students’ analytic skills and help them to get to the core of an issue. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect and converse more clearly and critically on the diverse nature of religion in society. **Please note: Due to the subject matter of the course some of the films are classified as Mature.**

**Course Requirements**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-reading Test	15%	No
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>	Clip Test	20%	No
Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	Final Test	20%	No
Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	Response Journal	10%	No
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Essay	35%	No

**Pre-reading Test**

This test will be on the student’s pre-reading of course material. The test will be designed so that students will demonstrate a familiarity and comprehension of course readings.

**Clip Test**

The clip test will be in response to a portion of a particular film shown in class. Students will apply the knowledge and interpretative skills developed in class to a prompt.

**Final Test**

This test will take place on the final day of class and will ask students to answer a questions designed to assess student’s knowledge of material we have covered throughout the week.

\*All tests will be graded on content and form.

**Response Journal**

Students will write a short response to each film shown in class. At the end of the last class students will hand in their journals for assessment.

## Essay

The essay will be an opportunity for students to explore the course themes and material. There will be a question which students will be expected to respond to in an essay style format. Essays should be approximately 1500 words or 5 pages double-spaced (Times New Roman 12 point font). The specifics will be provided on D2L in advance and essays will be due shortly after class is complete. Students will submit their exams on D2L dropbox. Further details will be provided in 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, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

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.

## Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

Exam and assignment dates are firm. Missed examinations or assignments must be accompanied by proper documentation (a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) and prior arrangement with the instructor. In case of a missed assignment or exam due to an unforeseeable emergency, students must notify the professor within 24 hours or as quickly as possible. Late assignments will lose 10% a day. Otherwise, missed exams and assignments will be awarded an 'F'.

## Expectations for student conduct in this course

Students are expected to do the readings in advance. Students are expected to be prepared to fully participate in discussions on course material in a respectful manner. Students are expected to come to class with a journal that they will hand into the instructor on the last day of class. Also, students should familiarize themselves with the university's Academic Honesty policy. Please be courteous in email correspondence.

## Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

Laptops are permitted only for the purpose of taking notes and for assignments. No electronics devices are allowed to be used in class for emailing, facebook, videos, texting, games, etc. Students that distract other students or the instructor with unauthorized use of electronic devices will be asked to leave the classroom.

Students are expected to have access to d2l and u of c library.

## Syllabus

A complete syllabus will be made available online on the first day of class.

## **References and Bibliography**

The Department of Religious Studies 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](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, or librarian staff.

## **Writing Support**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

## **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 Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

### **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.