

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2017

**Rels 605**

**W 14:00-17:00**

**Dr Tinu Ruparell**

**Office Hours: W 13:00-14:00 or by appointment**

**Office: SS530**

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**Telephone 403 220 7069**

**Required Text(s):**

Stanley Porter and Jason Robinson: *Hermeneutics: An Introduction to Interpretive theory*, Erdmans, 2011

David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 1: The Interpretation of Texts* OUP, 1986

David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 2: The Interpretation of Existence* OUP 1986

Paul Ricoeur, *Interpretation Theory, Discourse and the surplus of meaning*. Texas Christian U press, 1976

**Optional Text(s):**

Materials posted on D2L as required

**Course Description:**

This course will consider philosophical issues arising from hermeneutics and interpretation theory. Within a historical context beginning in the west with Schleiermacher and Dilthey, we will be concerned with three main areas: definition of the ‘text’ and interpretation theory; the development of method in the interpretation of religious and non-religious texts; and contemporary developments in hermeneutics. The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic appreciation of the variety of ways that hermeneutics has been employed, of the complex problems involved in its definition and use, and of the major issues that continue to be debated with regard to its nature and practice.

**Online elements for this course (if any):**

Some resources will be posted on D2L. However, please note that lecture notes/Powerpoint slides will not be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to attend lectures and make notes. See electronic device policy below

**Core Competencies:**

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the modern history of hermeneutics as well as practice the kinds of arguments employed in hermeneutic theory. As this is a course in theory in the study of religion, students will gain an appreciation of the ongoing discussion on the nature

and role of context, subjectivity and history in our understanding of religious texts as well as the wider functions to which hermeneutical theory has been put in more recent times. Committed students will gain in their abilities of analysis, verbal and written communication and critical self-reflection in the context of the study of religion.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA	In class presentations	40%
Final essay Due Dec 1 with defenses taking place Dec 4-8 (schedule TBA)	Final Research Essay (4-5 k words) plus Oral Defense	40%
	Details for each to be provided in class	20%

There is NO registrar scheduled exam for this course

**Note on oral Defense:**

The oral examination is meant to be an opportunity for the student to discuss further and thereby strengthen their research essay. It is a way by which feedback on the essay can become a springboard for further analysis and discussion, thus continuing the hermeneutic circle. Questions will be based on the student’s submitted essay, though, of course, some understanding of the authors and issues covered in class and through the assigned readings will be assumed. The aim of the oral is for students to support the essay and verbal performance per se in the oral exam will not be assessed.

**Grading**

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University’s Graduate Studies Calendar 2017-2018:

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	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.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

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

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

**In-class presentation dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’. If there is an issue with your assigned date for the presentation, please see me as soon as possible.**

**This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.**

**LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. Missing the oral examination without acceptable cause (as above) will result in a 15% penalty on the essay as well as an F on the oral exam component. Missing a presentation date without acceptable cause will result in an F in that component of the final grade.**

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This is a seminar course which requires students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and presentations will inform the grade for the presentation assessment. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. I strongly urge you not to use them at all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will not be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission. If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

**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.

**Student Accommodations**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**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.

**Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <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.

**Graduate Student Association Ombudsperson**

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.

**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.