

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2018

<b>Course</b>	Rels 200:01
<b>Time</b>	TR 9:30-10:45
<b>Location</b>	ICT 121
<b>Instructor</b>	Irving Hexham
<b>Office Hours</b>	T 11-12 or as arranged
<b>Office</b>	SS 538
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:uwr@ucalgary.ca">uwr@ucalgary.ca</a> – n.b. this email servers for all my courses. Anyone who writes to it must identify the course they are taking in the subject line and themselves in the actual email.
<b>Telephone</b>	(403) 220-3280

**Required Texts:**

Irving Hexham, *Understanding World Religions*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2011.

This book is also available as an ebook in Kindle and a variety of other formats.

The following article can be downloaded from D2L:

Albert M Wolters: On the Idea of Worldview and Its Relation to Philosophy

Clément Vidal *What is a Worldview*

F. B. Welbourn: Towards Eliminating the Concept of Religion

Ninian Smart: Meaning in Religion and the Meaning of Religion

Abraham Kuyper: Calvinism as a Life System

Karl Popper: The Myth of Framework

Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe: On Myth

All of these D2L items are in the public domain or, as in the case of the Popper article used with permission.

Finally, you will need to use the library to locate the following journal articles:

Walter Fisher, "Narration as a human communication" *Communication Monographs*, 51:1:1-22.

Walter Fisher: "Toward a logic of good reasons" *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 64:4, pp.376-384

Julie Reid, "The remythologisation of white collective identities ..." *Communicatio*, 38-1:45-63.

**Optional Text(s):**

The website [www.understandingworldreligions.com](http://www.understandingworldreligions.com) provides extensive supporting materials for this course. Anyone interested in reading more papers on worldviews from the ICS, including some complete books, can find them at: <http://ir.icscanada.edu/icsir/browse?type=author>

**Course Description:**

This course addresses the issue of religious and secular worldviews beginning with a discussion of the theory and practice of worldview analysis. It then discusses worldviews as a way of understanding the major world religions.

The course is composed of four modules:

Module One: On Myths and Worldviews

Module Two: African Traditions

Module Three: Yogic Traditions

Module Four: Abrahamic Traditions

**Online, or blended learning, elements for this course:**

This course emphasizes reading and individual research by the student. To this end it is designed as a "blended learning" course. This means it is a course where students will be asked to view films, and other items on the internet. When this is done time will be allocated instead of a lecture.

**Core Competencies:**

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

- 1) Understand the term "worldview" and its growing use in public discussions.
- 2) Think critically about worldview thinking and what it implies for society.
- 3) Gain an appreciation of the importance of different academic methods and theories
- 4) Learn to make informed judgments about worldviews.
- 5) Discuss the concept of worldview and various world religions

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
	<b>Tests</b>	
<b>27 September</b>	<b>First Test</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>25 October</b>	<b>Second Test</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>22 November</b>	<b>Third Test</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>4 December</b>	<b>Final Test</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>No Final Examination</b>	

**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, usually used 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

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

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

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero for that test.

**Expectations for student conduct:**

Students are expected to be courteous toward other students in the course, the TA and instructor. For students who raise questions during classes, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer them toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

**Expectations for email correspondence:**

Email must be sent from a U of C email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail. In the subject line of your email include the subject and clearly identify the course you are writing about. In the text of the email identify yourself by name, the course you are registered in, and the issue you are writing about. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines or anything else that is found in the course outline. Students must refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for relevant information. Inquiries related to future exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. The emails will be read and replies written on business days only.

**Power Point Slides:**

For copyright reasons power point slides and lecture notes will normally not be posted on the web. 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. Some recorded lectures and a few power points may be posted on D2L but not all. It is your responsibility to attend class, pay attention, and make your own lecture notes. There is also a growing body of evidence that shows students who write their notes by hand do better than one's who rely on the use of computer's in class. Note taking is a skill.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Laptops are permitted during class if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other social and recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time and kept out of sight. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6: "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, "Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion." Regulation E.6 also includes a statement on the Copyright Act: "The Copyright Act and the copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors."

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available early in the term.

### **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. Further information about plagiarism can be found at: <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/content/courses/courses.htm>

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **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.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>