

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019

Course	RELS 200 – 02 Religion, Myths, and Worldviews
Time	TR 9.30-10.45 MFH 160
Instructor	Irving Hexham
Office Hours	T 12-12.45
Office	SS 1310
E-mail	hexham@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-3280

Required Text(s):

Irving Hexham, *Understanding World Religions*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan.
This book is also available as an ebook in Kindle and a variety of other formats.

The following free articles on worldviews can be downloaded from:

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

http://ir.icscanada.edu/icsir/bitstream/10756/607241/2/SG_01_Wolters_1989.pdf

Clément Vidal *What is a Worldview*

It is also available off the Internet from:

http://cogprints.org/6094/2/Vidal_2008-what-is-a-worldview.pdf

On D2L you will also find the following required readings:

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 the above 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 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 in post-apartheid South African film by myth and counter-myth," *Communicatio*, 38-1:45-63

Optional Texts:

The website www.understandingworldreligions.com provides extensive supporting materials for this course.

Course Description:

This course addresses the issue of religious and secular myths and worldviews beginning with a discussion of the theory and practice of myth and worldview analysis. It illustrates specific religious worldviews using readings translated into English from major religious traditions in the context of the history and development of world religions. Recurring themes such as narrative paradigms, cosmology; existential values, goals; the destiny of humans, the world, and the cosmos, may form a focus for this discussion.

Classes begin on Tuesday September 5 and end on Thursday December 4. The mid-term break is from Sunday November 10 to Saturday November 16. The last day to drop a class without charge is September 12. The last day to withdraw from the course is December 6.

Online elements for this course:

This is a blended learning course which will incorporate online materials and activities such as watching videos etc. Students will find full details of these activities in the course syllabus.

Core Competencies:

- a) The ability to define terms such as "myth," "worldview," and "narrative paradigm."
- b) Develop the ability to recognize and discuss the importance of their growing use in discussions of religion and politics.
- c) Think critically about the use of terms like myth and worldviews and what they imply for society.
- d) Gain an appreciation of the importance of using different academic methods and the role of theory in academic work.
- e) Understand the historical contexts in which these terms are used in various world religions.
- f) Appreciate their importance for communicating religious beliefs and ideas
- g) Be able to make informed judgments about religious and secular myths and worldviews.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Tuesday 8 Oct	First Test	35%	% of final grade
Thursday 19 Nov	Second Test	35%	% of final grade
Tuesday 3 December	Third Test	10%	% of final grade
5 November	Mini Blog	15%	P/F pass = 15%
5 December	Power Point	15%	P/F pass = 15%
There will be no registrar scheduled final examination. No study aids are allowed to be used during examinations.	All of the tests will be multiple choice. Some sample questions will be provided before the test. Details of the two assignments, the blog and power point will be outlined on the class syllabus and explained 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, 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 module 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.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Courtesy toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, 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. Email must be sent from a U of C email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail. Include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. The instructor will reply to emails on business days only.

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 or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. 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 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 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, the teaching assistant, or librarian staff.

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/.

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.

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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> 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 Block.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

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

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/>.

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.