



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
FALL 2021**

COURSE NUMBER:

RELS 200.01

COURSE NAME:

Religion, Myths, and Worldviews

PRE/CO-REQUISITES:

None

CLASSROOM LOCATION:

MFH 160

CLASS DAYS & TIMES:

Asynchronous delivery using Zoom
Optional Online: MWF 1- 1:50 am; 7/9—8/11 2021.

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Irving Hexham.

Email: rels200@ucalgary.ca

Phone: (403) 220-3280

Office Hours: Please contact by email if you need to set up an appointment

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Please note that all course communications must occur through your University of Calgary email and will normally be answered within 48 hours.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT(S):

TBA

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

Readings (in English translation) from the classical literatures of Middle Eastern and Asian religions. Introduction to the evolving mythological traditions from three geo-cultural centres (the Middle East, India, and China) by examining religious themes: cosmology; existential values and goals; destinies of humans, the world, and the cosmos.

Course Hours: 3 units; (3-0)

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.

ONLINE ELEMENTS FOR THIS COURSE:

This course emphasizes reading and individual research by the student. This means it is a course where students will be asked to view films, and other items on the internet and may be asked to study other materials including listening to audio lectures online. To succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the online learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and optional synchronous Zoom sessions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students ought to be able to:

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

- 1) Understand the term "worldview" and its growing use in discussions of religion and politics.
- 2) Think critically about worldviews and what is implied for society.
- 3) Gain an appreciation of the importance of different academic methods and theories
- 4) Be able to make informed judgments about world religions and religious issues

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required readings:

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

This book is available from the University of Calgary's Bookstore and as an ebook in Kindle and a variety of other formats.

The following articles on worldviews can be downloaded without charge 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

Through the University of Calgary's Library website, you can find and download the following academic journal articles in pdf format:

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

Walter Fisher, "Narration as a human communication paradigm: The case for public moral argument," this is found in the academic journal *Communication Monographs*, March 1984, 51, pp.1-22.

Walter Fisher, "Clarifying the narrative paradigm," this is found in the academic journal *Communication Monographs*, March 1989, 56, pp.55-58.

Julie Reid, "The remythologisation of white collective identities in post-apartheid South African film by myth and counter-myth," *Communicatio*, 38-1:45-63.

If you have any problems finding these articles, please contact the library help desk.

On D2L you will also find the following required readings which are free downloads:

F. B. Welbourn: "Towards Eliminating the Concept of Religion," pdf of lecture.

Ninian Smart: Meaning in "Religion and the Meaning of Religion" pdf of Lancaster lecture

Abraham Kuyper: "Calvinism as a Life System," extract from *Princeton Lectures on Calvinism* given at Princeton Seminary in 1898.

Karl Popper: Extract from *The Myth of Framework*. This short extract from Popper's book *The Myth of Framework* is provided with permission of the Karl Popper Foundation.

All of the above items are either in the public domain or used with permission.
N.B. Occasionally additional readings may be added if events make them relevant to the course.

Additional online resources for this course:

The website Understanding World Religions provides extensive supporting materials for this course. It is found at:

www.understandingworldreligions.com

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>

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course. It contains the required readings identified above as on D2L plus other relevant class resources and materials.

Students taking online, remote, and blended learning courses or courses involving online elements are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates.

A current and updated web browser.

Webcam (built-in or external).

Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.

Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.

Broadband internet connection.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The course has the following basic outline which may be modified slightly as the lectures develop:

Week 1	Sept 8-10	Course Introduction
Week 2	Sept 13-17	What do we mean by "Religion"?
Week 3	Sept 20-24	Myths, Mythologies, and Narrative Paradigms
Week 4	Sept 27-29	Worldviews
	Oct 1, Friday	First Test - Online
Week 5	Oct 4-8	African Religions
Week 6	Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day – No classes
	Oct 13-15	Yogic Religions and the Hindu Tradition
Week 7	Oct 18-20	Buddhism
^	Oct 22, Friday	Second Test - Online
Week 8	Oct 25-29	Judaism
Week 9	Nov 1-4	Christianity
Week 9A	Nov 8-12	Mid-Term Break - No Classes

Week 9	Nov 15-19	Islam
Week 10:	Nov 22-'	Third Test - Online
Nov 24-26		New Religions
Week 11	Nov 29 – Dec 3	Studying Religion
Week 12	Dec 6	Fourth Test - Online
	Dec 8	Summing Up - Term Ends

EXAMINATIONS;

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Friday 1 October	First Test	30% of the Final Grade
Friday 22 October	Second Test	30% of the Final Grade
Monday 22 November	Third Test	30% of the Final Grade
Monday 6 December	Fourth Test	10% of the Final Grade

No scheduled Registrars' Final exam

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

This course relies on multiple-choice, true-false, and similar class tests.

MISSED TESTS:

If students miss or are unable to take a test on a particular date, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss alternative dates. If there is a long delay the stated date of the test and the time the student eventually takes it then their grade may be reduced by one grade point for each day the test is delayed.

GRADING

Tests will be marked according to the department's grading scheme which is:

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

Details about the university's grading scheme is found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>

Unless otherwise stated on the test paper, each correct answer in a multiple-choice test will be worth 1 grade point. The grading of the tests will be cumulative and out of a final possible mark of 100.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

There are no writing expectations in this course, only tests.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

There is no mark for attendance and participation, but some test questions will be based on the lectures.

It is strongly recommended that at the beginning of the semester you draw up your own timetable for the weekly readings and keep to it as closely to it as possible. To help you with this

you will be provided with course modules, pdfs or Power Points, and other materials, including audio files that will allow you to better organize your study time.

CONDUCT

As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Video conferencing tools such as Zoom may be used as supplementary learning experiences during the course. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Zoom it is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

Zoom class sessions may be recorded for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm

evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

N.B. Small adjustments may be made to this outline as the course progresses if new issues arise.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>

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. 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/

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors, including recorded audio lectures, posted notes, labs, and exams etc. are and remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited and illegal.

Discussing course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time is allowed but course materials must not be shared because all genuinely enrolled students will have equal access to it.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' tests will be accessible only by the authorized faculty and teaching assistant. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:

https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and

addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk