

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

05/09/02

Rels 201 L05

Introduction to World Religions—Western

Logistics	Time: MWF, 1:00-1:50 pm
	Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen
	Office Hours: SS1322 - One hour prior to class
	Telephone: 220-3285
	Email: burgndy@telus.net
	Textbooks: <i>Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions</i> (John Corrigan, <i>et al</i> ; New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1998)

Course Description	This course will examine the major western religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from three perspectives, moving from macro to wide analysis. First, the outstanding features, concepts, and personalities of each tradition will be examined up-close (i.e., synchronic analysis). Then, a historical trajectory of each religious tradition will be sketched, from ancient beginnings to modern developments (i.e., diachronic analysis). Finally, the deep human impulses and concerns underpinning each tradition will be identified within the broad context of grand cosmic-time (i.e., hyperchronic analysis). At each level, comparative assessments will be made between the three western religious streams. Class instruction will include lectures, films, assigned readings, and discussions.
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Core Competencies	<p>This course promotes the following academic competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the common concerns and multiple differences in world religions.• Understanding of the competing claims of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam concerning humanity's place and purpose within the cosmos.• Awareness of the role of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in history and society and their individual and combined impact on modern thought and life.• Skill in reading and interpreting secondary materials on topics of religion.• Ability to critically assess religion from a secular perspective.• Realization of the role which religious forces play in contemporary global dynamics.• Recognition of the insider/outsider differential in religious studies.
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Student Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of lectures • Comprehension of presented materials • Conceptual control of basic facts, concepts, and issues • Study of assigned readings 	
Learning Assessment	Three equally weighted tests (Sept 26, Oct 3, Oct 12) Midterm Exam (Nov 7) Registrar scheduled final exam (2 hours)	30% 30% 40% Total: 100%
		Bonus Quizzes: 5%

PLEASE NOTE:

- given the nature of the subject of this course and the approaches adopted, it is vital that students attend the first week of class to gain an understanding of the nature and methodology involved.
- occasional unscheduled quizzes will be administered in the last 2/3rds of the course (Diachronic and Hyperchronic Approaches), the purpose of which will be to encourage class attendance. These quizzes will constitute a potential 5% bonus, to be added to the grade achieved in the scheduled assessments.
- exams must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death or significant illness (corroborated by a valid note).
- a variety of testing styles will be employed in the midterm and final exams (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, etc.).
- students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- students must maintain “back up” copies of all submissions; no concessions will be made for “lost” materials.

Grading Scale	A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:			
	A+ 100-96	B+ 84-80	C+ 69-65	D+ 54-53
	A 95-90	B 79-75	C 64-60	D 52-50
	A- 89-85	B- 74-70	C- 59-55	F under 50

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

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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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have

not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

I. COMPARATIVE FEATURES OF WESTERN RELIGIONS (Synchronic Approach)	
September 12-16	Introduction to RELS 201 Introduction: The Academic Study of Western Religion
19-23	Comparative Ideologies in Western Religions Judaism Christianity Islam
26-30	Test #1 (Sept 26, Comparative Ideologies) Comparative Authority Systems in Western Religions Judaism Christianity Islam
October 3-7	Test #2 (Oct 3, Comparative Authority Systems) Comparative Ritual/Ethical Systems in Western Religions Judaism Christianity Islam Film (if time): <i>Half the Kingdom</i>
II. WESTERN RELIGIONS IN HISTORY (Diachronic Approach)	
10-14	Oct. 10 th – Thanksgiving Day. No Lecture. Test #3 (Oct 12, Comparative Ritual/Ethical Systems) Introductory Excursus: Western Religion in History
17-21	Judaism in History Part One Part Two Part Three Film: <i>Night and Fog</i>
13-18	<i>Christianity in History</i> Part One

	Part Two Part Three Film: <i>The Protestant Spirit</i>
III. WESTERN RELIGIONS IN DEEP-TIME (Hyperchronic Approach)	
October 31 – November 4	Islam in History Part One Part Two Part Three Film: <i>Islam - Empire of Faith</i>
7-11	Nov. 10-13 – Reading Days. No Lectures Midterm Exam (Nov 7, Western Religion in History) Introductory Excursus: Western Religion in Deep-Time
14-18	Western Religion in Deep-Time The West's Cognitive Map The West's Divine-Human Economy Futurism in Western Mytho-Ideology
21-25	Western Religion in Deep-Time Futurism in Western Mytho-Ideology, Continued Pragmatism in Western Mytho-Ideology Axial Shifts in Western Cosmo-Mythology
November 28 - December 2	Summary Review of Western Religion in Deep-Time Recent Palestinian-Israeli Issues Film: <i>Shattered Dreams of Peace</i>
5-9	The Jerusalem Myth
12-21	Final Exam (Western Religion in Deep-Time) – Registrar Scheduled