

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies
RELS 201 L02 *Introduction to World Religions, Western*
Fall 2011

Time: T/R 9:30-10:45am

Location: ICT 121

Instructor: Jennifer K. Wees

Office: SS 1330

Office Hours: T/R 11:30-12:30

Telephone: 403-220-5612

Email: jwees@ucalgary.ca

Textbooks:

Religions of the West Today by John Esposito, Darrell Fasching & Todd Lewis.

Acts of Faith by Rodney Stark & Roger Finke (University of California Press, 2000).

Course Description:

In the course of history, religion has been a motivating factor for deeds and accomplishments and, an explanation for incidents and phenomena. All cultures contain religions, beliefs, or philosophies, all of which create, perpetuate, and define cultural norms, none of which exist in a vacuum. All cultures eventually encounter other traditions, and they reject, assimilate, or accommodate these traditions, which can change the customs of all involved. When religions grow out of, or are, at the very least, influenced by each other, the tension between the desire for recognition and the desire for partition can create conflict or cooperation. This has been particularly true of the so-called "Western" religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

This course will examine each of these three major Abrahamic faiths (there will also be some examination of atheism), from an historical perspective, with regards to scripture, traditions, authority, politics, ritual, mores, morals, manners of worship, mysticism, inspirations, similarities, differences, influences on each other, competition with each other, concerns, ideologies, doctrine, expression, and faith.

Core Competencies:

Students should acquire and develop skills in critical analysis of Religious Studies literature, concise and organized expression of ideas, a "feel" for the history and cultures examined, and an avoidance of anachronism.

Course Requirements/Dates:

Exam: Judaism (25%)	Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Exam: Christianity (25%)	Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Book Review (20%)	Due: Thursday, December 1, 2011
Registrar Scheduled Final exam (30%)	

All due dates must be honoured, barring genuine, unforeseen circumstances, such as death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid note from a physician or counsellor) and the instructor must be contacted within 24 hours of the missed deadline. Work handed in late that does not fall into these categories will be penalized by the loss of one grade level (e.g., A becomes A-) per day of the total grade of the work in question.

The book review is to be **emailed** to me by the due date. No pdf documents please, as comments will be saved and returned with the document.

All work will be graded for grammar and spelling, as well as content.

Reading assignments will be posted and/or emailed regularly, so please ensure that the University has a valid email address for you.

Grading:

A numerical mark will be assigned to each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned according to the following table:

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

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:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are

not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

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>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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 Block.