

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Fall 2013**

Course: Religious Studies 201 L02: World Religions – Western

Time: TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Instructor: Anne Moore

Teaching Assistants: Christie Mellan
Sharon Mogen

Office Hours: TR 3:30 – 4:30 pm, W 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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Textbook:

Esposito, John L., Darrell J. Fasching and Todd Lewis. Eds. *Religions of the West Today*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Course Description:

This is an introductory study of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Baha'i. The general ambience for the course will involve information, knowledge, and understanding that will assist the student in analyzing modern events and issues associated with these religious communities.

This will be an interactive class. This means students will be responsible for reading thoroughly portions of the textbooks on their own prior to class. The class time will be used to discuss, analyze, and investigate the material and the implications in terms of comprehending the significance of Western Religions within the public sphere and, in particular, Canadian society.

Further, after September 19th, the class will be divided into three sections for small class tutorials, usually scheduled on selected Thursdays. The schedule and location for these tutorials will be provided in class. These tutorials will focus on specific concepts or ideas vital for comprehending the various religious traditions. These tutorials will involve additional readings that will be provided via Blackboard. Participation in these tutorials will be evaluated based on students' preparedness and thoughtful contribution. There will also be exercises scheduled in conjunction with some of the tutorials.

Core Competencies:

The learning context for this course is the assumption that religion was, is and will continue to be a major force in the lives of various individuals, communities and cultures. In other words, religion is a major social force requiring the attention and study of an informed member of the community. Consequently, the course is concerned with providing students with some of the information, knowledge and skills necessary for analyzing, accessing and understanding the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Baha'i. The course will be concerned with developing skills in the following areas:

- Acquiring, organizing, evaluating and accessing various forms of information provided through the media of text, lecture, film and music.
- Awareness and ability to deal with diversity, including societal, political, and ethical issues.

Self-Directed Study

Students are expected to develop skills of time management, organization and independent learning through assigned readings and preparation for exams.

Course Requirements:

A. Session Exams:

1. First Exam

In-Class Exam [**Thursday October 10th**] **30%***

Consisting of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the blank and short answers.

Material includes lectures, tutorials and classroom discussions from Sept 10th to Oct 3 and chapter 3.

2. Second Exam

30%*

In-Class Exam [**Thursday November 7th**]

Consisting of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the blank and short answers.

Material includes classroom discussions from Oct 8th to 31st and chapter 4.

3. Third Exam

10%*

In-Class Exam [**Tuesday December 3rd**]

Consisting of a combination of fill-in-the-blank, short and long answers.

Material includes classroom discussions from Nov 5^h to Nov 28 and chapter 5

Students must receive a passing grade on all assignments to pass this course.

*** Students may choose their the lowest grade to count as 10% of their final grade. For example, if one did not do well on either Exam 1 or 2, you may choose one of these to count as 10%.**

B. Participation and Exercise Marks

30%

Participation and Exercise Marks refers to the attendance at the tutorials and three exercises that will be associated with the tutorial discussions. There will be one exercise per each of the religious traditions. Further details will be discussed in class.

Course Protocol

Exams: Alternative dates for exams will be permitted only with PRIOR arrangement with the instructor. In the case of a deferred exam, the student MUST contact the instructor within 24 hours of a missed exam. Deferred exams will be arranged only under exceptional circumstances such as illness (with support provided by a doctor's note or medical certificate) or personal crisis (as verified by police report, bereavement notice, or through a meeting with the instructor). There is no-extra credit work permitted in this course and redistribution of percentage from one assignment to another is not an option. This is to ensure the fairness, equity and respect of all students in the course.

No deferrals are granted for exercises and/or participation marks.

Exercises MUST be submitted in person during the tutorial period. No late exercises will be accepted.

****There will not be a Registrar scheduled final examination for this course.***

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final examination, a letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

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

Course Syllabus:

A detailed syllabus or schedule will be provided the first week of the course.

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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

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 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 at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

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 for more information.

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