



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

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 201

**COURSE NAME:** Jews, Christians, and Muslims

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** Electronic Course Through Desire2Learn

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Asynchronous Delivery

**INSTRUCTOR NAME:** Laura Jurgens

**EMAIL:** lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca

**PHONE:** (403) 220-5612 (Campus Office)

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:** Please use email as the primary contact method. Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. Please be courteous. Inquiries related to an assessment must be sent no less than 24 hours before the deadline. I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please make an appointment with me over email.

Individual online meetings are by appointment, so that I can schedule meetings based on the needs and schedules of students.

**NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT(S):** Nicholas Fieseler  
(nicholas.fieseler@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:** Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will provide students with an introduction to the main three religious traditions that have shaped the Western world, focusing specifically on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will examine these Western religions and their historical context, key figures, sacred texts, main beliefs, rituals and practices. By the end of this course, students should be familiar with the essential characteristics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

*For online courses:*

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L). This course will occur asynchronously. This means that there are no "real-time" or "live" lectures. Rather, students will complete the material for each module on their own time (example: complete the readings, watch videos, etc.). Students will have access to audio lectures recorded by the instructor for each module. Even though this course is taught asynchronously, I am available to help you with the course content throughout the semester, so please reach out.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will be introduced to the three main Western religions. Committed students will become familiar with each religious tradition, especially important terms and concepts. Through actively engaging with the required readings and lecture materials, students will become knowledgeable of the historical context, essential beliefs, and practices within these three main Western religious traditions. Students will also further develop their writing skills.

**Expectations for Student Conduct in this Course:** As this is an online course through Desire2Learn, students are expected to keep themselves on track with lecture materials and required readings for each module. Students will be expected to carefully and diligently complete course content. Students are also expected to complete all assessments within the allotted time. There is also an expectation that students will reach out to the instructor if they have questions about the material. With regards to e-mail, please be respectful.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

**Required Textbook:** Deming, Willoughby. *Understanding the Religions of the World: An Introduction*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, 2015.

**Please Note:** The textbook is required for this course. It is free and available online through the University of Calgary library: [https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN\\_cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9781118770559](https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781118770559)

## LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a Desire2Learn site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). Students will complete all tests and submit all assignments through Desire2Learn. There is no “live” or synchronous component to this class. In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking an online course, like this one, are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system
- A current and updated web browser
- Broadband (strong) internet connection

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Schedule	Topic	Readings
September 7 – September 15	Module One: Studying Religion	Willoughby Deming, Introduction (Pages 1-8)  <b>Note: Please see our course D2L for the most up-to-date schedule for each module (including links for readings, lectures, and videos).</b>
September 15 – October 6  Quiz #1 (October 1)  Essay #1 (October 6)	Module Two: Judaism	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 269-275); History (Pages 275-300); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 300-324)
October 6 – November 3  Quiz #2 (October 29)  Essay #2 (November 3)	Module Three: Christianity	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 325-330); History (Pages 330-358); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 358-388)
November 3 – December 9  Quiz #3 (December 3)  Essay #3 (December 9)	Module Four: Islam	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 389-393); History (Pages 393-417); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 417-448)

**EXAMINATIONS**

There is no final exam in this course.

**ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Friday, October 1	Judaism: Quiz #1	10%
Wednesday, October 6	Essay #1	20%
Friday, October 29	Christianity: Quiz #2	10%
Wednesday, November 3	Essay #2	25%
Friday, December 3	Islam: Quiz #3	10%
Wednesday, December 9	Essay #3	25%

**Quizzes (30%):** Students will write a quiz on D2L after each core module (Two, Three, and Four). The quiz will be available on Desire2Learn for 24 hours on the date assigned for the quiz. Students are expected to take the quiz within that period. The quiz will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the quiz in one sitting and within a specified time limit. More information and specific instructions will be made available on Desire2Learn.

**Essays (70%):** Students will write three concise essays exploring and analyzing one main topic as it relates to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will be expected to conduct external research. Specific topics will be provided. Detailed instructions will be made available on Desire2Learn.

**Contingency Plan for Timed Assessments:** For the quizzes, students will receive some extra time as a contingency plan for issues that may arise, such as issues with technology, care-giving responsibilities, and unavoidable distractions. However, if these issues persist, contact the instructor immediately to work out a personalized contingency plan that works best for your situation.

**Extra Assignments:** There are no extra tests or assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or re-take tests / re-write essays to increase their grades.

## MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete all assessments within the allotted time. If you do not complete an assessment within the specified time given, contact your instructor as soon as possible. If a student is unable to complete a test due to technical issues (interruption of Internet service or computer, server malfunction, etc.), the student must notify the instructor within 24 hours via email. It is important for students to ensure that they have access to dependable Internet and power sources. For example, if your battery dies, it will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience technical issues, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In the meantime, document your technical issues with a screenshot to show the instructor.

**Penalty for Late Assignments:** Assignments will be deducted 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue. For example, if the essay is due on Friday by midnight, then the late penalty takes effect on Saturday at 12:01 a.m. Then, 15% is deducted every day (so 15% on Saturday, then another 15% on Sunday at 12:01 a.m. etc.).

## 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

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate tests and assignments. It is not necessary to pass each test or assignment separately in order to pass the course. In other words, there are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your final grade. The weighting for the module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests. See the University's undergraduate grading system: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>

## EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

There is an expectation that all writing is your own. This means that you do not directly copy material from other sources or another person. This also means that you do not paraphrase (re-write) someone else's work in your own words without also citing (providing a citation, like a footnote) to show where you found the information. This is very important as plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your work must be your own 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, or librarian staff.

All writing (including on tests) will be assessed on both form and content. This means that writing skills are important in this course. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Submit essays to the appropriate Dropbox in either a .doc or .pdf file format. Other formats will not be accepted.

### **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. 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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **COURSE EVALUATION 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.

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) 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. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. 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>.

### **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**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> 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