

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies

May 9, 2006

Religious Studies 201 L29
Spring, 2006

World Religions - Western

Lecture: S (13:00 am - 17:00 pm, May 6-June 17); *Also W (June 14 & 21, 18:00-20:00)

Instructor:

Dyron Daughrity, PhD

Office:

SS 1322

Office Hours:

By appointment

Telephone:

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Textbook:

John Corrigan, et al.

*Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to
Monotheistic Religions*

Bruce Feiler

Walking the Bible

Course Description:

The **A**Western**@**religions have had a profound influence on the way people in the Western world think and feel. The **A**Western**@**religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the focus of this fascinating intellectual journey through the world of three faiths. Christianity and Islam are the largest two religions in the world; however, neither would exist without their historical parent, Judaism. This course is an introduction to these three major faiths. We will look at them from an historical perspective and we will also consider these faiths in their contemporary setting.

The following topics will be examined throughout the term:

- \$** Scripture within these religious traditions
- \$** Monotheism in its various forms
- \$** Who is the authority in religious matters? What is authoritative in these religions?
- \$** How do members of these faiths worship? What kinds of rituals do they practice?
- \$** How do these religions rationalize the **A**thical**@**and **A**moral**@**
- \$** What **A**aterial**@**artifacts and objects are used in the various cultures involved?
- \$** Religion and politics

Core Competencies:

The student should acquire and develop a number of skills such as critical reading, analytical interaction with academic writing, in-depth appraisal of arguments and theories, and the clear expression of ideas.

Course Format:

The pedagogical format for this course includes lectures, discussions, internet demonstrations, and critical reflection on various themes through writing and discussion. Being an introductory-level course, the student will acquire skills that will prepare her/him for upper-level academic study, particularly in the area of religion. This course involves **readings and lectures**; examinations will include material from both.

Important Note

Each class period will introduce new themes and concepts that may be unfamiliar to the student. Therefore, it is highly important that students do all readings on time and come carefully prepared to engage the readings through discussion and interaction with the class. **All readings should be carefully engaged and reviewed; they will be incorporated into the exams.**

Course Requirements:

Exam #1- (May 20, Pt. 1, 2)	25%
Exam #2- (June 10, Pt. 3, 4)	25%
Book Analysis- (due June 17, no extensions)	25%
Exam #3- (June 24, Pt. 5, 6, 7)	25%

Examinations:

All examination dates and times must be honored, except in unforeseen circumstances such as accident or personal illness. No makeup exams will be administered except in these extraordinary situations.

Book Analysis:

The book analysis is on the book *Walking the Bible*. It is to be exactly 2 pages long, double-spaced, and in 12 point font. This assignment is very specific; we will discuss it at length in class. If you are new to writing a paper, you should seek help from the University Affective Writing Centre or consult University web resources such as:

<http://hist.ucalgary.ca/write/main.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/writing/>

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/Web/efwr/wcentre.html>

*This assignment places great emphasis on the concept of a thesis statement. Please see the following website for understanding how to arrive at a thesis statement:

http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/thesis_statement.shtml

The Structure of the book analysis must be as follows:

- 1) Author's thesis
- 2) Your thesis
- 3) Introduction: it will state your thesis and preview your 3 major points
- 4) Body: 3 paragraphs. Each will deal with one major point.
- 5) Conclusion: it will restate your thesis and review your 3 major points

Grading of the book analysis will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Thesis statements. **First**, your paper must articulate what you believe to be the author's thesis. **Secondly**, you must propose a thesis of your own. Your thesis is the primary interpretive idea that you use to analyze this book. ****You must explicitly state the author's thesis as well as your own thesis at the very beginning of your paper.**
- 2) Has the student read the book carefully?
- 3) Are the introduction and conclusion proper, obvious, and clear?
- 4) The paper must be clear and organized.
- 5) The paper must be free of grammatical and structural errors.

**All late papers will lose an automatic 10% per day unless arrangements have already been made with the instructor due to exceptional situations. Academic integrity is expected, particularly in regard to plagiarism.*

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:

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

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

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.

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>.