

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies

05/05/04

Religious Studies 201 L20
Spring 2005
Lecture: MW (11:00 am -1:45 pm)
Instructor:
Office:
Office Hours:
Telephone:
E-mail:

World Religions - Western

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By appointment
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Textbook: John Corrigan, et al.: *Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions*

Course Description:

The “Western” religions have had a profound influence on the way people in the Western world think and feel. The “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 engage these faiths in their contemporary setting.

The following topics will be examined throughout the term:

1. Scripture within these religious traditions
2. Monotheism in its various forms
3. Who is the authority in religious matters? What is authoritative in these religions?
4. How do members of these faiths worship? What kinds of rituals do they practice?
5. How do these religions rationalize the “ethical” and “moral”?
6. What “material” artifacts and objects are used in the various cultures involved?
7. 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 will include lectures, discussions, the use of video, 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. It is important to note that while the course involves readings and lectures, neither should be regarded as a substitute for the other. In other words, examinations will include material from both.

Important Note

Each class period will introduce new themes and concepts that will 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- (June 1 , 11:00am-12:15pm, Pt. 1, 2)	25%
Exam #2- (June 15 , 11:00am-12:15pm, Pt. 3, 4)	25%
Book Analysis- (due June 27 , no extensions)	25%
Exam #3- (TBA by Registrar , Pt. 5, 6, 7)	25%

Examinations:

Due to the unique structure of this course, 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 a book of your choosing. It is to be 3-4 (min/max) pages long and double-spaced. This assignment is geared to integrate students' personal interests with the course material. You should present your choice to the instructor by **June 1**. We will discuss this assignment at length in class. If you are new to writing a paper, you should seek help from the University "Effective 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>

Criteria of the book:

Students will choose a book for analysis in conjunction with the instructor. The book must be approved by the instructor and must not have been selected by another student in the class. Please choose a book that is not considered a scholarly textbook. Use a book that is geared for a larger readership. The book must deal explicitly with one of the three Western religions. If you are struggling to find an appropriate book, convey to the instructor a topic you would like to explore and Dr. Daugherty will discuss various options with you that will be in the library or at a local bookstore.

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

- 1) There are two criteria which are absolutely necessary. First, your paper must have a thesis. Your thesis is the primary interpretive idea that you use to analyze this book. Secondly, your paper must articulate the author's thesis. Your thesis should engage, critique, or challenge the author's thesis. You must explicitly state the author's thesis as well as your own thesis in the introduction.
- 2) It must demonstrate that the student has read the book carefully.
- 3) The introduction and conclusion must be proper and very clear.
- 4) It must show that the student understands the central arguments, concepts, and suppositions.
- 5) It must be clear, organized, and demonstrate an understanding of the material.
- 6) It must be free of grammatical and structural errors, as much as possible.

****All late papers will lose an automatic 10% per day unless arrangements have already been made with the instructor. 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.

Withdrawing from courses:

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

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Safewalk Programme:

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

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>.