

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY | FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

# RELS201 L60: World Religions – Western

## Summer 2013

TR 9:00-11:45 AM | SS109

Instructor: Roselle M. Gonsalves

Office: SS1304

Office Hours: TR 12:15-13:15

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Phone: 403-220-5612

### Textbook:

Fisher, Mary Pat. 2014. *Living Religions*. Boston: Pearson.

Links to additional readings will be posted to BlackBoard.

### Course Description:

This is an introductory study of religious traditions that are generally labeled as 'Western' religions: including but not limited to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i, and Zoroastrianism. This course will give particular attention to origin myths, history, and doctrine, with the intent of introducing students to the vast array of attitudes, philosophies, and cultures that make up these religious traditions.

### Course Objectives and Educational Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will have developed a comprehensive understanding of Western religious traditions in various cultural settings. Specifically, students will:

- Describe, define, and distinguish between the traditions presented through the course.
- Identify and discuss recurring themes of mysticism, devotion, obedience, law, tradition, etc., and the importance of these themes within the religious traditions.
- Have a comprehensive understanding of the historical, societal, and cultural roots of each religious tradition discussed.
- Exhibit a nuanced appreciation for and mature respect for religious dialogue in the modern Western world.

This is a student-focused, interactive class. This means that you are responsible for preparing for class through readings and other preparatory material, which will be utilized during class time 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.

Tentative Course Schedule:

| Date     | Topic   | Text Reading |
|----------|---|--------------|
| July 2   | Course Introduction<br>Class-keeping<br><br>Religious Studies Methodology   |              |
| July 4   | Zoroastrianism<br><br><b>Activity: Bridge b/w East &amp; West (5%)</b>  | p.242-245    |
| July 9   | Judaism: History until 1 <sup>st</sup> cent. CE   | p.246-261    |
| July 11  | Judaism: Sectarianism, Modernity, Sho'ah  | p.261-299    |
| July 16  | <b>Quiz 1 (15%)</b><br><br>Intro to Christianity: Jesus, Early Christianity, Critical Sources, Middle Ages + Medieval Roman Catholicism   | p.302-333    |
| July 18  | Christianity: Protestant Reformation, Rituals, Sacraments, Modernity<br><br>Activity: Article analysis  | p.333-373    |
| July 23  | <b>Quiz 2 (15%)</b><br><br>'How to Write' Seminar + Library Trip<br><br><b>Activity: Newspaper Analysis + Discussion (10%)</b>  |              |
| July 25  | CLASS VISIT TO CALGARY'S AHMADIYYA MOSQUE   |              |
| July 30  | Intro to Islam: Time of the Prophet, the Qur'an + Hadiths, Schisms, Five Pillars<br><br><b>Group Activity (10%)</b> —classroom discussion, article collection, discussion, analysis—in-class paper writing. | p.377-406    |
| August 1 | Islam: Spread of Islam, Islam in the West, Modernity, Contributions to Modern Civilization  | p. 406-432   |

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
|           | Baha'i<br><b>Group Presentations Part 1 (10%)</b>   |           |
| August 6  | <b>Quiz 3 (15%)</b><br>New Religious Movements<br><b>Group Presentations Part 2 (10%)</b> | p.458-493 |
| August 8  | Religion in the West Today<br><b>Group Presentations Part 3 (10%)</b>                     | p.496-518 |
| August 14 | <b>Quiz 4 (5%)</b><br><b>Final Paper Due (15%)</b>  |           |

Each 'religion' section will consist of three components:

- Lecture on history, doctrine, myth, and modernity.
- Multimedia presentation on subject [ex: video].
- Presentation of article on the religion being discussed in the modern media.
- Opportunity to discuss article in small groups.
- Class discussion of articles in relation to lecture and media materials.

The lecture components of each section will closely follow the chapters in course textbook, but there will be material that is extraneous to the textbook, as well as material in the textbook that will not be covered in class. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have engaged with all the material effectively.

Assignments:

The focus of this class is on contemporary Canadian religions. As such, the class will engage with newspaper and other media articles that highlight the role of religion in Canadian society. These in-class article analyses are meant to help you build skills of critical analysis and academic discussion. There will be no opportunity to make up these in-class assignments. Details to be discussed in class.

Group activities/presentations will be conducted in groups of 4-5 students. Grades will be given on an individual basis—there is no group mark, and each student is responsible for his/her share of the work. There will be no opportunity to make up these group assignments/presentations. Details to be discussed in class.

The final paper must be handed in, in class on August 14, 2013. Electronic copies will not be accepted unless there is a valid reason for being unable to attend the class. The final paper will

be based on your experience of visiting a community place of worship. The class will make this visit as a group on a date to be announced. The details of this trip will be finalized at the beginning of the term. While this trip is not mandatory, it is one of the options on which to write your final term paper. If you are unable to attend this trip, you will have to come speak with me during office hours to determine a suitable alternative final paper topic. Your final paper should be no longer than 1500 words long. It will be graded on content and form. Papers dropped off after the due date can be submitted to the Department of Religious Studies assignment drop box (SS1301). Your paper will be penalized 10% per day that it is late (including weekends). Further details will be discussed in class.

In-class quizzes are non-cumulative. Quizzes will be administered in class. Deferred quizzes may be requested and may be granted at the discretion of the instructor on a case-by-case basis. In order to be eligible for a quiz deferral, you will need credible documentation (ex: doctor's note), and must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed quiz to arrange the deferral. Each quiz will require a comprehensive knowledge of the materials covered in the course lectures, textbook, and other supplementary materials.

There is no-extra credit work permitted in this course and redistribution of percentage from one assignment to another is not an option. No deferrals are granted for pop quizzes and/or participation marks.

Grades:

The weightage for each course component is as follows:

|                     |     |                              |
|---------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| In-class Activity:  | 5%  | July 4, 2013                 |
| Quiz 1:             | 15% | July 11, 2013                |
| Quiz 2:             | 15% | July 18, 2013                |
| Quiz 3:             | 15% | July 23, 2013                |
| Newspaper Activity: | 10% | July 25, 2013                |
| Group Activity:     | 10% | July 30, 2013                |
| Group Presentation: | 10% | August 6-8, 2013             |
| Final Paper:        | 15% | Due in class August 14, 2013 |
| Quiz 4:             | 5%  | August 14, 2013              |

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

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final quiz, 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 |

Email Protocol:

Students are welcome to communicate with the instructor in-person during office hours, and before/after class time.

The primary method of electronic communication with the instructor is email. Emails must adhere to the following guidelines:

Use your University of Calgary email account. Emails from private accounts will not be read.

Please include "RELS201-L60" in the subject line, along with a brief description of the query.

Include your full name and your student number in the body of the email.

Every effort will be made to respond to emails within 24 hours (not including holidays and weekends). Please do not send follow-up emails within this window.

Additionally, it is your responsibility to regularly check your university email account and BlackBoard for official emails and announcements from the instructor.

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 the course 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.

Miscellaneous Resources:

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](mailto: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 third 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for

more information.

- The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).
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#### 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](http://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.