



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Summer 2022**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 201

COURSE NAME: Jews, Christians, and Muslims

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Online Course Through Desire2Learn (D2L)

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Asynchronous Delivery

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT: Laura Jurgens, PhD (lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca)

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: Please note that I will likely not respond to emails after regular business hours. I also cannot guarantee that I will check and/or respond to emails over weekends, so please make sure to email me well in advance, especially if there is an assessment due early in the week. I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please send me an email or make an appointment with me over email to chat via Zoom. Individual online meetings by appointment, so that I can schedule meetings based on the needs and schedules of students.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT: Raymond Liang (hwliang@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.

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn/Brightspace (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 recorded lectures, videos, etc.). Although I will regularly provide reminders, students are expected to keep themselves on track with completing required content for each module. There is also an expectation that students will reach out to the instructor if they have questions about the course content or are struggling with the content. Even though this course is taught asynchronously, I am available to help you throughout the semester, so please reach out.

Please note: This course has been condensed for the Summer term and covers the same amount of material as a Fall or Winter semester course. Normally, there are 13 weeks in a Fall or Winter semester. There are only about 6 weeks in the Summer semester. Therefore, students should expect that this course will be a full semester worth of work in a shorter amount of time.

Expectations for Student Conduct: 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 complete all course content carefully and diligently. 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.

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.

By the end of the course, committed students should be able to...

1. Identify and comprehend key historical events, beliefs, rituals, and practices within the Western religions.
2. Articulate their knowledge of Western religions, especially of key terms and concepts, from an academic perspective.
3. Evaluate and engage with appropriate scholarly sources.
4. Construct a research essay.
5. Develop their writing skills further.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

Required Textbook: Deming, Willoughby. *Understanding the Religions of the World: An Introduction*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, 2015. This textbook is free and available online (as an eBook) through the University of Calgary library: https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781118770559

Additional reading will be posted to D2L.

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 assessments through Desire2Learn. There is no “live” or synchronous component to this class. 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
First Day of Classes – June 27		
June 27 – June 29	Module One: Studying Religion	Robert Crawford, Can Religion Be Defined? (Pages 1-8) Note: Please see our course D2L for the most up-to-date schedule for each module (including links to readings, lectures, and additional videos).
June 29 – July 13 Test #1 – July 12	Module Two: Judaism	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 269-275); History (Pages 275-300); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 300-324)
July 13 – July 27 Test #2 – July 26	Module Three: Christianity	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 325-330); History (Pages 330-358); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 358-388)
July 27 – August 10 Essay Due – August 4 Test #3 – August 9	Module Four: Islam	Willoughby Deming, Overview (Pages 389-393); History (Pages 393-417); Beliefs and Practices (Pages 417-448)

Last Day of Classes – August 10
Final Exam Period – August 12 – 15

EXAMINATIONS: There will be a final exam in the course, scheduled by the Registrar. Students may use course content (their notes) for the final exam (however, information must still be written in the student’s own words). Students are not permitted to use information from the Internet.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Tuesday, July 12	Quiz #1: Judaism	10%
Tuesday, July 26	Quiz #2: Christianity	10%
Thursday, August 4	Essay	35%
Tuesday, August 9	Quiz #3: Islam	10%
Registrar Scheduled (Exam Period: August 12 – 15) *Students are required to be available for the final exam period.	Final Exam	35%

Assessment Descriptions:

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 D2L. *Aligned to course learning outcomes: 1.*

Essay (35%): Students will write an essay exploring and analyzing one main topic as it relates to Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. Students will be expected to conduct external research including academic, peer-

reviewed sources. Specific topics will be provided. Detailed instructions will be made available on D2L.
Aligned to course learning outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5.

Final Exam (35%): The final exam will be cumulative, based on the entire course. There will be a written component on the exam. The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period (August 12 – 15) and students are required to be available during this period. More information will be made available on Blackboard. *Aligned to course learning outcomes: 1, 2, 5.*

Reviewing Quizzes: After completing the quizzes for this course, student will only be able to see their final score. Individual answers are not displayed to students. For students who are interested in seeing individual answers, please email the instructor.

Contingency Plan for Timed Assessments: For the quizzes, if students experience persistent issues, such as with technology, care-giving responsibilities, and unavoidable distractions, contact the instructor immediately to work out a personalized contingency plan that works best for your situation.

Plagiarism: As with any written work, including on assignments and final exams, plagiarism will **not** be tolerated, and **any instances of plagiarism will be immediately reported** to the Associate Dean of Arts. There are serious consequences for plagiarizing. For example, in the past, students have faced consequences that have included mandatory workshops on academic integrity, a zero on the assessment, and/or a zero (F) in the course (with no ability to withdraw), among other negative consequences. Please make sure that you are familiar with what counts as plagiarism as it is your responsibility as a student to know: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Submitting Assignments: Students must submit their assignments to the appropriate folder on D2L in either a .doc or .pdf file format. Other formats (like .pages) will not be accepted. Students are expected to review their submission to make sure that it is the correct document and that it can be opened on D2L. An assignment will be considered late (with late penalty applied) until the appropriate file or file format is submitted.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra tests or assignments for this course (due to the large size of this class, etc.). Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work, re-take quizzes, or re-write assignments to increase their grades. Please make sure to try your best for each assessment as there are no second attempts.

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 a quiz. 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 later show the instructor.

Late Penalty: Assessments will be deducted 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue. For example, if the assessment 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.). Please submit assessments prior to the deadline to avoid a late penalty.

Extensions: If an extension is required, students are expected to reach out to the instructor before the assessment is due, not afterwards. Only valid reasons for extensions will be considered. For instance, extensions will not be granted for poor time-management skills (having multiple assignments due at the same time, leaving work until the last minute, etc.). It is important to complete work well in advance of the deadline in case issues arise. For help with building time management skills, please see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/time-management>

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.

The weighting for each assessment 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>.

Rounding Grades: The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up final grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. A 59.4% will NOT be rounded up. Only increments of .5% and above will be rounded up. Only final grades are adjusted (individual assignments are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your grades.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING: There is an expectation that all writing is your own (on all tests and assignments). 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. Even when you do provide a citation, you still need to adequately paraphrase the information into your own words. 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>

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/ .

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

Wellness and Mental Health Resources: The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre: The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office: The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca