

Religious Studies 201 L98

World Religions - Western

Weekend University - Fall, 2004

Final Exam December 4

No classes - Oct. 9, 30; Nov. 13, 27

Instructor: Dyron Daughrity
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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; however, we will also engage 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 “ethical” and “moral”?
- What “material” artefacts 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 will include lectures, discussions, the use of video, and critical reflection on various themes through writing and discussion.

In this 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.

Each class period will be introducing 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- (Sept. 25, 8:30-9:30 am, Pt. 1, 2)	25%
Exam #2- (Oct. 16, 8:30-9:30 am, Pt. 3, 4)	25%
Book Analysis on Book of Your Choosing- (Due Nov. 20)	25%
Final Exam - (Dec 4, 9:00-11:00 am, Pt. 5, 6, 7)	25%

Examinations:

Due to the unique structure of this course (weekend university), all examination dates and times must be honoured, except in unforeseen circumstances such as accident or personal illness. No make-up 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 pages long, and double-spaced. Students will choose a book for analysis and will get approval from the instructor. This assignment is geared to integrate students' personal interests with the course material. Students must choose a book that *has not been chosen* by another student in the class. You should present your choice to the instructor at least by **October 23**. Please choose a book that is not considered a scholarly textbook. Use a book that is geared for a larger readership. We will discuss this at length in class.

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

- 1) It must integrate course material, showing the student has given considerable thought to the themes, thinkers, and concepts presented throughout the term.
- 2) It must demonstrate that the student has read the book in a critical way.
- 3) It must cite certain passages in the book, reacting to what the author is trying to convey.
- 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) The **introduction and conclusion must be proper and very clear.**
- 7) 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.

Recording of lectures:

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

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and 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.

Safewalk Program :

"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!

Withdrawing from courses:

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

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>.