FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 201

COURSE NAME: Jews, Christians and Muslims

CLASSROOM LOCATION: online (hopefully just for January 2022) then Information & Communication Technologies Building (ICT) 122

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1100–1215 (January via Zoom; hopefully afterward in person)

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS: George Ferzoco, **george.ferzoco@ucalgary.ca**
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10:00–11:00. The instructor will be available for individual online sessions by appointment, structured in 15-minutes intervals. Please contact the instructor via email to request an appointment. For students that are not available during office hours, please contact the instructor via email to request an alternate time. Instructor's office (Social Sciences 506) has no telephone.

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: The instructor will only be opening e-mails sent from a @ucalgary.ca address, and will delete e-mails sent from other domains (e.g., gmail.com). The instructor will respond on Mondays to Fridays to e-mails sent on Mondays to Fridays. Response will normally be within 48 hours of receipt; if you have not received a response within that timeframe, please send a (gentle) reminder. This correspondence is of a business nature, so you are expected to reply by starting with 'Dear' then name (*e.g.*, 'Dear George'); do not begin with 'Hey' or 'Yo'.
Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by full name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email enquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Enquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline.

NAMES & EMAIL ADDRESSES OF TEACHING ASSISTANT(S): Faezeh Izadi (Faezeh Izadi faezeh.izadi1@ucalgary.ca) and Toha Toriq (toha.toriq@ucalgary.ca) [&TBA?]

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:
This course is an introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Course hours: 3 units; (3-0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION [SUBJECT TO CHANGE]
This course will introduce the western faiths, focusing on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, textual tradition, cultural context(s), leading figures, institutions, practices, and key beliefs/doctrines. The development and fragmentation of each faith will be discussed, highlighting cultural shifts and sectarian distinctions. Special attention will be given to (*e.g.*): Abrahamic covenant, concepts of revelation, the office of the prophet, conquest/war, and anti-Semitism. Some theoretical approaches (*e.g.*, Ninian Smart's 'Dimensions of Religion') will be introduced as well.

The course will include discussion of higher criticism and issues related to interpretation. Students will be guided through an introductory reading of select texts (in English translation) of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an.

The course will be composed of four modules:

Module 1 Introduction to the Study of Religion (chapter one) and Ancient Religions (chapter 2)
Module 2 Judaism (chapter three)
Module 3 Christianity (chapter four)
Module 4 Islam (chapter five)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with much of the following in relation to Western religious traditions:

• key terms and concepts in the study of religion
• disciplinary approaches to the study of religion
• dimensional analysis of religion
• founders and influential figures
• chronological development and key events
• critical teachings, doctrines, and creeds
• sources of law and ethics
• rituals, practices, festivals, and holy days
• scriptures and authoritative texts
• sacred geography, architecture, and iconography
• divisions, sectarianism, reformation, and mysticism

LEARNING RESOURCES
REQUIRED TEXT: Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary P. Rodrigues, *World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials*. SECOND EDITION. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

Note: The textbook is required as listed above, using the second edition. If a student acquires an older edition of this book in any format and intends to use the older edition rather than the required edition, it is the responsibility of the student to compare the older edition with the newer edition to determine the material that may be different between the editions. If a student has access to an online version that is without page numbers, it is the responsibility of the student to synchronize the readings with the required textbook.

In addition to the textbook readings, students will be required to read select excerpts from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an. Links will be posted on D2L, along with selected secondary sources.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS
There is a D2L site for this course, containing required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

For the online portion of this course, in order to successfully engage in your learning experience, you are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
A computer with a supported operating system as well as the latest security and malware updates
A current and updated web browser and Zoom application
A webcam
A microphone and speaker or a headset with microphone
Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
Broadband internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS, January to April 2022 – main dates
11 January – first day of classes
20 January – last day to drop without financial penalty
21 January – last day to add or swap a course
25 January – Test 1 (online, multiple choice, open book; includes chapters 1&2, and module 1 course material) – 10%
28 January – tuition and fee payment deadline
17 February – Test 2 (online, multiple choice, open book; includes chapter 3 and module 2 course material) – 30%
20–26 February – term break (no classes)
21 March – Test 3 (online, multiple choice, open book; includes chapter 4 and module 3 course material) – 30%
12 April – last day of classes
19–29 April (precise date to be determined, as scheduled by the Registrar's Office): Exam (online, multiple choice, open book; includes chapter 5 and module 4 course material) – 30%

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS
If a student misses a module test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, note from counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not ordinarily be provided an opportunity to make up the module test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

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. Below you will find: letter grade; numerical mark; grade point value

A+ 96–100 4.0	**B 75–79 3.0**	**C- 55–59 1.7**
A 90–95 4.0	**B- 70–74 2.7**	**D+ 53–54 1.3**
A- 85–89 3.7	**C+ 65–69 2.3**	**D 50–52 1.0**
B+ 80–84 3.3	**C 60–64 2.0**	**F 0–49 0.0**

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each element separately in order to pass the course.

Adjusted Final Grades:
The instructor will implement a standard measure of **.**5% adjustment for grades. Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments:
If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, note from counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the module test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Extra Assignments:
There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Weighting of Module Tests:
The weighting for module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

Reviewing Tests:
Tests for this course will not be returned.

CONDUCT
Students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html
In general, please be courteous toward other students in the course. Be respectful of class time. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. Be respectful of class space. Seating in the course is reserved for students registered in the course. Guests are permitted to attend a lecture if seats are available. All guests must obtain the permission of the instructor in advance to attend a lecture. Be considerate of the shared learning environment. Avoid distracting behavior and activities. Focus on objective inquiry. While critical evaluation is permitted in this course, students are encouraged to steer inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas. Students who flagrantly or repeatedly abuse these guidelines will be asked to leave the class.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS
Be aware that if you care about your marks, you will not use your notebook computer to take notes in class, as studies consistently demonstrate that students who use pen/pencil and paper in class outperform those who use electronic devices. Under no circumstances must anyone use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. No video or audio recording is permitted. Students who distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, **"Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion."**

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: : https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

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 ACCOMMODATION
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 express written 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
Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk