FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2023

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 201

COURSE NAME: Jews, Christians and Muslims

CLASSROOM LOCATION: MFH 160 (Murray Fraser Hall, Room 160)
https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/calendar-scheduling/room-mfh-160

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1530–1645 (normally, classes are in person, but tests are online – see below for further information)

INSTRUCTOR: George Ferzoco, george.ferzoco@ucalgary.ca (office hours to be established)

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: The instructor will only be opening e-mails sent from a @ucalgary.ca address; e-mails sent from other domains (e.g., gmail.com) may be deleted unopened. The instructor will respond on Mondays to Fridays to e-mails sent on Mondays to Fridays. Response will normally be within 2 business days of receipt; if you have not received a response within that time frame, please send a (gentle) reminder. This correspondence is of a **business** nature, so you are expected to write by starting with 'Dear George' or 'Dear Professor'; do not begin with 'Hey' or 'Yo' (as some seem to do habitually).
Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by your first name and your surname, your UCID number, and the course and section in which you are registered. Please do not send email enquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and D2L for schedule and other information. Enquiries related to tests or assignments must be sent no less than 48 hours before a deadline.

NAMES & EMAIL CONTACTS OF TEACHING ASSISTANT: Tiantian Zhong (tiantian.zhong@ucalgary.ca)

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 parts:
Introduction to the Study of Religion (chapter one) and Ancient Religions (chapter 2)
Judaism (chapter three)
Christianity (chapter four)
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. 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. There will be some classes with videos and with guest lectures.

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.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
The D2L site for this course will contain required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca). Some classes will be devoted to screenings of videos.
For the online portions 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
• a current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
• broadband internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS – main dates [subject to change]
10 January – first class
19 January – last day to drop without financial penalty; end of refund period
20 January – last day to add or swap a course
27 January – tuition fee payment deadline
7 February – Test 1 (worth 25% of final grade)
19–25 February – term break (no classes)
2 March – Test 2 (worth 30% of final grade)
28 March – Test 3 (worth 30% of final grade)
11 April – Test 4 (worth 15% of final grade)
ALL TESTS ARE ONLINE, TO BE TAKEN WITHIN A GIVEN 24-HOUR PERIOD; PRECISE DETAILS AND TIMINGS TO BE GIVEN IN ADVANCE. TESTS WILL COVER: a) SPECIFIED MATERIAL FROM THE TEXTBOOK AND OTHER SOURCES PROVIDED (e.g., on D2L); and b) MATERIAL DISCUSSED IN CLASS.

MISSED CLASSES, AND MISSED TESTS OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Students who have joined the course after it started, or who have missed class due to illness or other reasons, must consult other students (e.g., via group chat) in regard to what was missed. For missed assignments, please email the professor as soon as possible.

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; and 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 adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Such adjustments will take place after everyone has completed the tests and their marks have been entered.
Do not send emails asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' or 'bell' everyone's final grade. Also, do not tell the instructor you: 1) always get higher marks in your other courses; 2) must get a certain grade in order to get your degree or to be admitted to another program; 3) should get a higher mark because you worked very hard.

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

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

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, and to the instructor. Be respectful of people's feelings, and of classroom facilities (e.g., do not put feet up on chairs or desks), or unduly take up desk space.
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 your instructor's voice and hearing; to this end, you must sit closer to the front of the class than the back, and speak loudly and clearly when asking questions. (Of course, do not enter into discussions with classmates during lectures unless otherwise instructed.)
Be respectful of classroom 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 any of these guidelines of conduct (including in reference to what follows below) will be asked to leave the class; the Security Office will be called if the instructor deems it to be necessary.

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. This means, obviously, that texting during class is not permitted. Similarly, 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; repeated incidents of this nature may result in students being instructed not to attend classes in person at all.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulation 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 (SHOULD SUCH SESSIONS BE REQUIRED)

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. It seems unlikely the course will have Zoom sessions, but it is possible.

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:
https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/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
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