

**The University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Humanities**  
Department of Religious Studies

05/09/13

**Religious Studies 205-95**  
**The Nature of Religion**

**Fall 2005**  
**W 18:30-19:20**  
**Cochrane Ranche House**

**Instructor**  
**Office**  
**Office Hours**  
**Telephone**  
**Email**

Dr. Tinu Ruparell  
University of Calgary, SS1320  
by appointment  
220 7069  
[ruparell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca)

**Texts:**

Joesph Runzo *Global Philosophy of Religion: A Short Introduction* (Oxford: One World publications, 2001)

Other articles will be used during the course and will be made available at student expense during the semester. A Reader of such articles may be purchased at the Student Union Copy Centre.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to issues in the academic study of religion as well as some of its central questions. We will be concerned with issues having to do with the definition and study of religion, certain key religious concepts and the potential of comparison in religion. The course will proceed thematically rather than historically and we will not generally limit ourselves to any one particular tradition, though many of the thinkers we will be reading are western. The aim of the course is to give students an understanding of the problematic nature of religion and its study.

**Core Competencies:**

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the academic study of religion and in so doing gain critical reading and analytic skills. Additionally, students will begin to acquire abilities in forming clear, concise and cogent arguments, develop their writing and communications skills and broaden their perspectives on the place of religion in contemporary societies. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the humanities as well as well as in wider social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect more clearly and critically on the nature of religion in society and their own religious narratives.

## Course Requirements

There will be three assessments for this course:

Assessment	Date	Weight /100%
In-class exam	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2005	40
Final paper	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> 2005	50
participation	weekly	10

## Grading:

A numerical grade will be given for each course requirement with a letter grade awarded as the cumulative grade for the course. Below is the table approved by the Dept of Religious Studies:

A+ 96 –100%	A 90-95%	A- 85-89%
B+ 80-84%	B 75-79%	B- 70-74%
C+ 65-69%	C 60-64%	C- 55-59%
D+ 53-54%	D 50-52%	F < 50%

## NB. POLICY WITH REGARDING MISSED ASSESSMENTS

**Test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. Please note that vacations, no matter how far in advance they have been arranged, do not constitute an acceptable reason to miss an assessment.**

**This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.**

## Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available in the first week of class.

**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 your instructor.*

**Academic Accommodation:**

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

**Withdrawing from courses:**

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

**Recording of lectures:**

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

**Gnosis:**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.