



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Fall 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 205

**COURSE NAME:** Religion and the Good Life

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** Electronic Course Through Desire2Learn

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Asynchronous Delivery

**INSTRUCTOR NAME:** Laura Jurgens

**EMAIL:** lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca

**PHONE:** (403) 220-5612 (Campus Office)

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:** Please use email as the primary contact method. Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. Please be courteous. Inquiries related to an assessment must be sent no less than 24 hours before the deadline. I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please make an appointment with me over email. 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(S):** Elliot Williams (ebwillia@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:** An introduction to the academic study of religion with particular emphasis on the nature of religion, its role as a response to existential questions, and the relationship of religion to contemporary thought and culture.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** What gives life meaning? Many people find meaning in their religious traditions. Many religious traditions have established ethical and moral frameworks regulating personal behaviours which act as a guide for adherents in determining what is right and what is wrong. This course will provide students with an introduction to several major world religions from an academic perspective. This course will also explore how these religions provide people with meaning by guiding individuals towards living a good and moral life. This course will discuss and analyze the question: What does it mean to live an ethical life? Students will learn how religious traditions address important moral and ethical problems through examining contemporary ethical issues. This course will give students the opportunity to explore the major religious traditions of the world and key ethical issues.

*For online courses:*

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (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 videos, etc.). Students will have

access to audio lectures recorded by the instructor for each module. Even though this course is taught asynchronously, I am available to help you with the course content throughout the semester, so please reach out.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will be introduced to different world religious traditions with an emphasis on ethics and morality from an academic perspective. Committed students will be expected to reflect on contemporary ethical issues and will be able to analyze contemporary moral dilemmas in each core module. Students will further develop their reading, researching, and writing skills through completing assessments, especially the essays. Engaged students will become knowledgeable of some of the moral principles within each major religious tradition and be able to think about how to live a good and moral life.

**Expectations for Student Conduct in this Course:** 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 carefully and diligently complete course content. 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.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

**Required Textbook:** Robinson, Thomas and Hillary Rodrigues. *World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2006 (Second Edition).

Other online readings, from the University of Calgary library, will be required.

## 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](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)). Students will complete all tests and submit all assignments through Desire2Learn. There is no “live” or synchronous component to this class. In order 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
September 7 – September 14	Module One: Studying Religion	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Studying World Religions (Pages 1-17)  <b>Note: Please see our course D2L for the most up-to-date schedule for each module (including links for readings, lectures, videos, etc.).</b>
September 14 – September 28	Module Two: Judaism	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Chapter on Judaism (Pages 39-75)  Tsuriel Rashi, Justifications for Medical Quarantine in Jewish Ethics (Pages 2678-2691)
<b>Quiz #1 (September 29)</b>		
September 28 – October 12	Module Three: Christianity	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Chapter on Christianity (Pages 75-109)  Henrik Syse, Religious Ethics, Christianity, and War (Pages 49-57)
<b>Quiz #2 (October 13)</b>		
October 12 – October 26  <b>Essay #1 (October 25)</b>	Module Four: Islam	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Chapter on Islam (Pages 109-145)  Fazlun Khalid, Islam and the Environment (Pages 707-716)
<b>Quiz #3 (October 27)</b>		
October 26 – November 23	Module Five: Hinduism	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Chapter on Hinduism (Pages 145-177)  Joris Gielen, Mahātmā Gandhi's View on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (Pages 431-434)

<b>Quiz #4 (November 24)</b>		
November 23 – December 9 <b>Essay #2 (December 6)</b>	Module Six:  Buddhism	Thomas Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, Chapter on Buddhism (Pages 177-209)  Bronwyn Finnigan, Buddhism and Animal Ethics (Pages 1-12)
<b>Quiz #5 (December 9)</b>		

## EXAMINATIONS

There is no final exam in this course.

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
Wednesday, September 29 Wednesday, October 13 Wednesday, October 27 Wednesday, November 24 Wednesday, December 9	Module Quizzes (5 x 6% = 30%)	30%
Monday, October 25	Essay #1	35%
Monday, December 6	Essay #2	35%

**Quizzes (30%):** Students will complete short quizzes on D2L after each core module. The quizzes will be available on Desire2Learn from 7:00 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. on the day assigned for each quiz. Students are expected to take the quiz within that period. The quizzes will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the quiz in one sitting and within a specified time limit. More information will be made available on Desire2Learn.

**Essays (70%):** Students will compose two concise essays based on course content and external research (proper academic sources). Students need to include citations and a bibliography following the Chicago Manual of Style. Emphasis will be placed on a well-developed thesis statement that clearly and concisely explains your position. Further emphasis will be placed on the logical development of ideas and

arguments, support of ideas and arguments, presentation of counter arguments, writing style (thematic, chronological, etc.), proper use of sources, proper citations, as well as spelling and grammar. The essay topics and full instructions will be posted to Desire2Learn.

**Contingency Plan for Timed Assessments:** For the quizzes, students will receive some extra time as a contingency plan for issues that may arise, such as issues with technology, care-giving responsibilities, and unavoidable distractions. Students are expected to contact the instructor immediately, if these issues persist.

**Extra Assignments:** There are no extra quizzes or assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or re-take tests / re-submit essays in order to increase their grade.

### 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 the test. 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 show the instructor.

**Penalty for Late Assignments:** Assignments will be deducted 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue. For example, if the essay 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.).

### 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. In other words, there are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your final grade. The weighting for the module tests 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>

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING**

There is an expectation that all writing is your own. 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. 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>

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Submit essays to the appropriate Dropbox in either a .doc or .pdf file format. Other formats will not be accepted.

### **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also 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>

## **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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

## **COURSE EVALUATION 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.

## **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