

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS & RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2016**

Course	RELS 205 LEC 1 – Religion and The Good Life
Time	Electronic Online Course – All course information, test assessments, and group discussions to be accessed or completed in University of Calgary's Desire2Learn course management system
Instructor	Jonathan Napier
Office	SS 502
Office Hours	Mon & Wed 10:00-11:00am (online)
E-mail	janapier@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-5612

Required Texts

All readings will be posted on D2L.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion. We will approach this through stories in modern thinkers, philosophy, narratives, and current events. The course is structured thematically to analyze a variety of questions which arise when we ask ourselves: *what is religion?* Or: *what is the good life?* Defining and explaining religion is a difficult and complex task; therefore, we will critically analyze major theoretical problems and contemporary challenges for religious traditions. We will study various religions from around the world in order to appreciate the broadness and diversity of practices and beliefs in the world today. The aim of this course is to give students a strong awareness of the complex nature of religion, an appreciation for the variety of constructions within religious traditions, and an understanding of some of the important challenges to religions today.

Online elements for this course

All information related to this course will be posted on D2L. Student discussions, assignments, instructions, and feedback will be online. Course content will be delivered in six modules. Each module will have its own readings, audio files and possibly online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

Core Competencies

Students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the academic study of religion. Students will be expected to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and class discussions. They will also have the opportunity to pursue clear and concise writing, research, and communication abilities. This course will enhance students' analytic skills and help them to get to the core of an issue. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect and converse more clearly and critically on the diverse nature of religion in society. Ultimately, this course will promote research, writing, and critical thinking.

Course Requirements

Assessment:	Percentage:	Date:	Required to Pass Course:
Test 1	5%	May 12 th Thursday 10:00am – May 13 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Test 2	5%	May 19 th Thursday 10:00am – May 20 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Test 3	5%	May 26 th Thursday 10:00am – May 27 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Test 4	5%	June 9 th Thursday 10:00am – June 10 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Test 5	5%	June 16 th Thursday 10:00am – June 17 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Test 6	5%	June 23 rd Thursday 10:00am – June 24 th Friday 10:00pm	No
Final Paper	40%	June 30 th	No
Participation	6x5% = 30%	Ongoing	No

Test 1 through 6

Tests will be designed to discern the student's knowledge of course reading and related material posted on D2L. Students will be given 36 hours in which to write a module test. The test will be posted on D2L and will compose of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Participation (weekly)

Students are expected to respond to each of the 6 modules with an initial post and a response (approx. 200 words maximum per post). Posts will be graded on their content with these two questions in mind: do the students' posts offer an understanding of course material? And, do the students' posts add in a meaningful way to the discussion?

Final Paper

This assignment should be approximately 2500 words in length. Grading will be based on content and form. Further details will be provided in class. The students are expected to hand in a Word copy on to D2L's dropbox function. Late papers will lose 10% a day.

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, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

A+	100 – 96	A	95 – 90	A-	89 - 85
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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.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

Given that this an online course (accessible anywhere, anytime), and, given that discussions and test writing take place over an extended period, no concession for missed tests or discussions will be granted, except for cases of significant illness or domestic issue (adequately described, verifiable with proper medical documentation noting the significance of the illness, to be submitted electronically within 24 hours subsequent to the test period). In the event of such exceptional circumstances a make-up will be scheduled during the final exam period, to be written in person in the Department of Classics & Religion (exam time to be announced). Please note: unlike the online tests, all make-up tests will be in short-answer format with no access to external materials (textbook or notes) permitted.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Students are expected to be prepared to fully participate in discussions on course material in a respectful manner. Also, students should familiarize themselves with the university's Academic Honesty policy. Please be courteous in email correspondence.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

Students are expected to ensure that their computer and internet provider are fully operational and stable. No exceptions will be made for technical glitches (e.g., server crash, browser freeze-up, battery drain, wi-fi dropout ... in short, anything between the university's system and the student's computer) other than significant outages in the University's system. It is therefore the responsibility of the student of an online electronic course to ensure that s/he possesses (or has access to) the proper equipment and secure signal necessary to complete all components of the course.

Syllabus

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

References and Bibliography

The Department of Religious Studies uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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 (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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

Writing Support

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; 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/.

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.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L.

Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.