

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS & RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

Course	RELS 205 LEC 1 – Religion and The Good Life
Time	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11:00-11:50
Instructor	Jonathan Napier
Office	SS 502
Office Hours	M 10:00 – 11:00
E-mail	janapier@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-5612

Required Texts

- *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2002.
- *Power of Religion in the Public Sphere*, by Judith Butler. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011. Ebook.
- Additional Readings may be posted on D2L

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion. We will approach this through stories of modern thinkers, in literature, as well as film. 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

Announcements and some readings will be posted online.

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:
Written Assignment	15%	Friday, January 29	No
Test 1	25%	Friday, February 12	No
Test 2	25%	Wednesday, March 24	No
Take Home Exam	25%	Friday, April 15	No
Participation	10%	Ongoing	No

Participation

Students will be expected to come to class having completed the assigned reading for that day, prepared to discuss the material.

Students are also expected to engage the course material on a regular basis.

Written Assignment

For this assignment students will consider the question: “What is the Good Life?” This assignment should be approximately 1000 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 hard copy in class. Late papers will lose 10% a day.

Test 1&2

Both tests will be designed to discern the student’s knowledge of course materials, lectures and discussions. They will be composed of short and long answer questions, each concerning course lectures and readings. Answers will be graded on content and form.

Take Home Exam

For this assignment students will consider how religion is depicted as a force for good or not. This assignment should be approximately 1250-1500 words in length. The question students will respond to will be given out in class on Monday April 11. Grading will be based on content and form. Further details will be provided in class. The students are expected to hand in a Word version on D2L. 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 Classics & 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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments

Exam and assignment dates are firm. Missed examinations or assignments must be accompanied by proper documentation (a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) and prior arrangement with the instructor. In case of a missed assignment or exam due to an unforeseeable emergency, students must notify the professor within 24 hours or as quickly as possible. Late Assignments will lose 10% a day. Otherwise, missed exams and assignments will be awarded an 'F'.

Expectations for student conduct in this course

Students are expected to arrive to class on time for each class. Students are expected to be prepared to fully participate in discussions on course material in a respectful manner. Finally, students should familiarize themselves with the university's Academic Honesty policy and complete all assignments as presented in the Course Outline.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

Laptops are permitted only for the purpose of taking notes and for assignments. No electronics devices are allowed to be used in class for emailing, facebook, videos, texting, games, etc. Students that distract other students or the instructor with unauthorized use of electronic devices will be asked to leave the classroom.

Syllabus

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

References and Bibliography

The Department of Classics & Religion 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.