

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
 FACULTY OF ARTS
 DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 335 L01: RITUAL AND RELIGION
 COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2019

Course	Ritual and Religion		
Time	Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00-12:50 PM		
Room	SS 541		
Instructor	Office Hours*	Office	Contact Information
Dr. Joy Palacios	Mon. and Wed., 3:00-4:00 PM	SS 534	E: joy.palacios@ucalgary.ca T: 403-220-3285

* Office hours on Wednesday, January 30th and Wednesday, February 28th will be canceled. My Monday office hours will be extended those weeks

Required Text(s):

Readings from key theorists in Ritual Studies will be posted to D2L as PDFs.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. 2nd ed. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2011.

ISBN: 978-0-226-20683-7

- This book can be purchased as a paperback from the University bookstore or as an e-book from the platform of your choice:
 - Google Play (\$16.87) - https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Robert_M_Emerson_Writing_Ethnographic_Fieldnotes_S?id=k83BlbBHubAC&hl=en
 - Amazon – Kindle Edition (\$16.87) - <https://www.amazon.ca/Writing-Ethnographic-Fieldnotes-Second-Emerson/dp/0226206831>
 - iBooks (\$27.99)

Grimes, Ronald L. 2014. *The Craft of Ritual Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

ISBN: 978-0-226-20683-7

- This book can be purchased as a paperback from the University bookstore and is also available as an e-book through the university's library website. To avoid access issues, please download each day's readings. The user agreement allows you to download 109 pages per day: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3055864>

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to major theoretical frameworks and methods from the interdisciplinary field of Ritual Studies. Ritual theory proposes answers to and shapes academic debates about the nature and origins of religion, the relationship between what people do and what they believe, and the function of religious practice in constructing cultures, societies, traditions, and identities. More generally, ritual theories provide tools for analyzing behaviors and activities, whether sacred or secular, that foster feelings of community and difference, facilitate transitions between life stages, commemorate the past, and imagine the future. During the first several weeks of the semester, our readings will provide a basic vocabulary for ritual analysis and will prepare students to work in groups to go and observe a local ritual event using ethnographic research methods. Next, we will read canonical works from theorists who have left a lasting mark on ritual studies. Finally, the semester will conclude with a mini in-class conference in which students present their research findings in small groups before submitting individually-authored research papers based on the ethnographic observations they conducted during the semester.

Core Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

Knowledge:

- Explain, compare, and contrast the foundational concepts used in Ritual Studies for studying religious practices
- Outline and apply the basic principles of research ethics

Skills:

- Collaborate with a team of fellow researchers to design an ethnographic observation
- Write a successful ethics application
- Make detailed ethnographic observations of a live ritual event
- Record their observations in the form of field notes
- Craft a “thick description” of a ritual event based on their field notes
- Evaluate, select, and justify a theoretical framework in Ritual Studies and use it to analyze a ritual event

Course Requirements:

This course will entail the following assignments/assessments:

Detailed handouts for each assignment will be provided in class.

1. Reading Quizzes = 20%

Five quizzes which will be held at the beginning of the Monday class sessions during weeks 8-12 of the semester. The quizzes will cover the assigned reading for that day and will consist of 10 multiple-choice or short-answer questions. **Students can drop the quiz with the lowest score.** Quizzes cannot be rescheduled.

2. Field Site Proposal = 15%

- CORE certificate (5%)
- Field Site Proposal (10%)

First, each student will complete the CORE Certificate, which will introduce you to the standards for ethical research involving human participants outlined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS). Upon successful completion of the CORE Certificate, you will automatically receive full credit for 5% of your Field Site Proposal. Then you will work together in groups of 4-5 to select a ritual event to observe and to prepare a proposal detailing how each member of your group will conduct their observations in conformity with the university's ethical standards. Each member of the group must have completed the CORE Certificate before submitting the Field Site Proposal. The grade on the Field Site Proposal will be a group grade.

3. Fieldnotes = 20%

Once your group's Field Site Proposal is approved, you will attend or participate in the chosen ritual event and write up fieldnotes, which include "jottings" of your observations and a "thick description" of the event based on those jottings. Although each student in the group will observe the same ritual event, each student will focus on a different aspect of that event so that members of the group produce complementary fieldnotes.

4. Group Presentation = 15%

- Individual presentation grade (5%)
- Group presentation grade (10%)

During the last two weeks of the semester, each research group will give a 20-minute presentation to the class based on their ethnographic project. The presentation will introduce the ritual event your group selected, discuss the ethics issues you had to consider in submitting your field site proposal, give an overview of the range of observations each group member contributed, and offer a preview of the types of arguments group members plan to make in their final papers based on the group's findings. Part of your grade on the group presentation will be based on your individual performance (5%) and part will be based on the group's overall performance (10%). Group members will submit anonymous evaluations of each other's efforts and contributions, which I will use to help me determine the individual portion of the grade.

5. Final Paper = 30%

At the end of the semester, each student will write a final paper (1200-1500 words, or approximately 5-6 pages double-spaced). Your paper will use at least one of the ritual theories we studied during the semester to analyze the ritual even you observed, and should draw on your own fieldnotes as well as the fieldnotes produced by at least two other members of your research group.

Summary of dates and weights:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
1 February 2019	CORE certificate	5%	
15 February 2019	Field site proposal	10%	
25 February 2019	Reading Quiz 1	4%	
4 March 2019	Reading Quiz 2	4%	
11 March 2019	Reading Quiz 3	4%	
18 March 2019	Reading Quiz 4	4%	
25 March 2019	Reading Quiz 5	4%	
29 March 2019	Fieldnotes	20%	
1-10 April 2019	Group presentations	15%	
12 April 2018	Final paper	30%	
<i>This course does not have a final exam</i>			

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

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

In accordance with university policy, deferred examinations are permitted only in exceptional circumstances. For further details see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Unless exceptional circumstances prevent you from submitting an assignment on time or a prior agreement has been made with me, late work will be marked down by one third of a grade per day (from an A to A-). Requests for extensions should be accompanied by supporting documentation, as per the Supporting Documentation and use of a Statutory Declaration regulation stated at the end of this course outline. Also see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

The reading quizzes cannot be rescheduled. The option to drop the lowest grade is designed to serve as an accommodation for students who miss one of the quizzes.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Your active participation is important for your own learning as well as the learning of your peers. I will do my best to structure in-class time in ways that foster and facilitate your engagement with the course materials. Readings assigned for a given date on the schedule should be completed

before class begins. Often, I will begin class with a brief lecture highlighting what I think is important in the readings. Whenever possible, I will design interactive activities that will prompt you to explain, analyze, compare, or apply the ideas and information covered in the readings. Please come to class ready to think and share.

During class discussions and activities, I expect each member of the course to help me create a positive learning environment by listening respectfully to each other, using transitions (“As Julia said, I think...”, “I agree/disagree with Mohad because...”, “I want to build on that idea...”), and by refraining from statements that signal judgment. We will be discussing material that can be sensitive and about which members of the course may have strong feelings. For this reason, all members of the class will be asked to use vocabulary that signals observation, description, analysis, scholarly argument, and hypothesis formation.

Electronic Device Policy:

Electronic devices are allowed in this course and will sometimes be used for in-class activities. (I, too, after all, will have my laptop with me to provide PowerPoint presentations and my phone so I can use its timer to keep our activities on track.) I do, however, expect that all members of the class show respect to their fellow students and the instructor(s) by not wearing headphones, answering phone calls, playing music, or watching their own videos. If a student’s use of electronic devices disrupts others, he/she may be asked to leave the room.

Recording any part of the lectures or class sessions in any form must first be approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only.

Syllabus:

A schedule of readings will be distributed on the first day of class and posted to D2L.

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, or librarian staff.

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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy:

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

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.

Health and Wellness:

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.