

**The University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
Spring Term 2008
Religious Studies 341 L20
*New Religious Movements***

Instructor: Chang Han Kim
Class Time and Room: TR 14:00-16:45/ SH 288
Office: SS 1304
Office Hours: TR 13:00-13:50 or by appointment
Telephone: 220-5886 or 689-4289
E-Mail Address: kimch@ucalgary.ca
Website Address: <http://www.newreligion.net/courses>

Required Texts

Hexham, Irving, and Karla Poewe. *New Religions as Global Cultures: Making the Human Sacred*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1997.

Cowan, Douglas, and David Bromley. *Cults and New Religions: A Brief History*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.

Other readings needed for the class and tests will be posted on the Internet at:
<http://www.newreligion.net/courses>

Suggested Readings

Jenkins, Philip. *Mystics and Messiahs: Cults and New Religions in American History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Wilson, Bryan, and Jamie Cresswell, eds. *New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response*. New York: Routledge, 1999.

Hadden, Jeffrey, and Douglas E. Cowan. *Religion on the Internet: Research Prospects and Promises*. New York: JAI, 2000.

Course Description

This course provides students with a comprehensive overview of what new religious movements are and how we can best understand them. It is divided into two parts. In the first part, we will examine the concepts and theoretical frameworks required for an adequate understanding of new religious movements. In the second part, we will inquire how these concepts and theories can be applied to analyzing new religious groups in our society. In addition, a number of relevant documentary films will be shown throughout the course. The course outline follows the contents of the required textbooks, but updated materials will be provided as well.

Core Competencies

This course is designed to help students expand their awareness as well as enhance their critical and comprehensive understanding of religion, particularly of new religious movements. Students will gain skills in clarifying concepts, analyzing arguments, and developing their own ideas as they respond to the phenomena presented in the classes and the readings.

Requirements

Midterm Exam (June 10):	20 %
Registrar-scheduled Final Exam:	30 %
Internet Survey (due June 5):	20 %
Research Essay (due June 26):	30 %

Exams

Students will take two exams during the term. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions, covering the textbooks, films, and other course materials. The midterm exam will be June 10 and the final exam will be scheduled by the registrar. Students who miss the midterm exam must contact the instructor within 48 hours of the exam; a make-up exam will be considered only in serious cases, such as illness (supported by a medical doctor's note) or personal crisis (the nature of which will be assessed by the instructor).

Internet Survey

Students will be required to survey Internet websites related to the subject of this course. You can survey any new religious groups or anti-cult individuals and groups on the Internet. You can compare the websites of different new religious groups, or analyze and evaluate one or more websites of a specific group.

This assignment does not require a bibliography, but you must include the name(s) of the organization(s), the web address(es), and the date you accessed the source(s) in your footnotes or endnotes.

Citation examples:

- 1) Apologetics Index, < <http://www.apologeticsindex.org>>, accessed 27/04/2008.
- 2) Scientology, <<http://www.scientology.org>>, accessed 30/05/2008.
- 3) Steven Alan Hassan's Freedom of Mind Center, < <http://www.freedomofmind.com>>, accessed 14/05/2008.
- 4) Terrorism and Cults Post 9/11, < <http://www.freedomofmind.com/stevehassan/terrorism-and-cults-post-911>>, accessed 24/05/2008.

Your survey results will form the basis of a 5 to 6 page (1200-1300 words) paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 point). The deadline will be 5 June 2008. The assignment is to be completed by the deadline. Late assignments will lose 5% per day for each day past the deadline.

Research Essay

Students must choose one topic discussed during the course and hand in an 11-12 page research paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 point, footnoted) or 2500-3000 words. Papers must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography, each of which must be single spaced. The citations and bibliography must conform to one of the following styles: MLA, APA, or Chicago.

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on 26 June 2008. The assignment must be submitted by the deadline. Late assignments will lose 5% per day for each day past the deadline.

Grading

Overall course grades will be determined by your total performance on all graded course activities. A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement.

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

Academic Honesty

Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic honesty.

Academic Accommodation

If you have a documented disability and require accommodation to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities must first verify their eligibility through the office of the Disability Resource Center (DRC web address is: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/>)

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://webapps2.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>