

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Rels 343 L02
Religion and Social Morality

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2009
(subject to changes and revisions until the first day of class)

Logistics	Time	Monday and Wednesday, 3:00-4:15
	Location	SA 124A
	Instructor	Dr. David A. Bergen
	Office Hours (SS 1330)	Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00-11:00 am (preferably by appointment)
	Telephone	(403) 220-5612
	Email	dabergen@ucalgary.ca
	Textbooks	Ian S. Markham <i>Do Morals Matter: A Guide to Contemporary Religious Ethics</i> (Blackwell Publishing) 2007. Michael Bradie <i>The Secret Chain: Evolution and Ethics</i> (State University of New York Press) 1994. Additional PDF materials will be posted in Blackboard.
Course Description		Should the Wall Street perpetrators of the current global economic recession be bailed out? Should war crimes investigations be initiated against those national powers who aggressively attacked Iraq under the pretext of ‘weapons of mass destruction’? Do humans always act on the basis of self-interest or do some on occasion behave altruistically? Questions such as these and the common disjunctive between “ought” and “is” in humans affairs are the focus of this course. The course is divided into two parts. For the first seven weeks, we will discuss religious ethics relevant to our contemporary world. For the remainder of the term, we will engage in an evolutionary investigation of the emergence of morality in human social development.
Learning Assessment	Seven One-Page Weekly Position Papers (one per week, first section of course)	40%
	Student Project (second section of course)	40%
	Participation	20%

PLEASE NOTE:

- tests and assignments must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). The instructor must be contacted within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.
- the assessments offered in this course will be geared to rewarding students who are conscientious in their attendance, participation, and preparation of classes.
- students will be graded daily on their participation in class. The quality of the grade will reflect attendance (minimal grade), critical engagement with assigned readings, and respectful interaction with the ideas and discussants. Students who use class time to air uninformed opinions or to speculate claptrap will receive a poor participation grade.
- the class will play a major role in determining the format and parameters of the “Student Project.” At minimum though, the project must: 1) involve a component of “group-work,” 2) demonstrate understanding of the discussions raised in the course, 3) offer a critical analysis of social morality in the upcoming television series 2009 *Survivor Brazil*.
- electronic communications devices should not be used during class. Students may use laptop computers only for purposes of recording lecture information.
- a 5%/day late penalty will be levied for all late submissions. Late submissions must be handed in at the Department’s assignment drop-box (SS 1301), where they will be date-stamped.
- students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- class schedule, lecture outlines, important concepts, readings, and additional relevant materials will be posted online.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- students must “back up” all submissions ; no concessions will be made for papers purportedly “lost”

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

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

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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Important Dates

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403) 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Course Withdrawal	Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.
Lecture Recording	Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.
Safewalk Program	"You don't have to walk alone...." Call (403) 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!
Gnosis	Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis .