

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
**Course Outline**

Rels 345-L60

Summer 2009

God and Transcendence:

M/W 10:00am - 12:45pm  
SA 129

Instructor:

Dr. Tinu Ruparell

Office:

SS 1320

Office Hours:

M 13:00-14:00  
or by appointment

Telephone:

(403) 220-7069 or (403) 220-5886 (main office)

email:

ruparell@ucalgary.ca

**Textbooks:**

Required: Keith Ward, *Concepts of God: Images of Eternity* (Oxford: One World, 1998)  
Additional readings may be required

Recommended: Keith Ward, *God: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Oxford: One World, 2003)  
Available at the University Bookstore

**Additional supplementary readings:**

Ben Ami Scharfstein. *A Comparative History of World Philosophy* (Albany: SUNY, 1998)

Keith Ward, *Religion and Creation* (Oxford: OUP, 1996)

Thomas V. Morris ed. *The Concept of God* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987)  
“God As Feminine : A Dialogue” (European University Studies, No 23 : Theology, Vol 523)

Julius Lipner, *The Face of Truth* (London: Macmillan, 1986)

**Course Description:**

We will be concerned with analyzing concepts of God from a number of religious traditions, in each case considering their philosophical consistency and coherence. The notion of divine transcendence itself will then be interrogated through non-realist theologies, feminist critiques and theories of panentheism, the latter as found in the Hindu theologian Ramanuja’s notion of the world as the body of God. Questions we shall have the opportunity to ask include: What is God? How can we legitimately speak of what is by

definition beyond language? How does the notion of God impact religious practice? Is the Goddess transcendent? Can we still do theo-ontology in a post-modern world?

**Core Competencies:**

Active participants in this course will further their skills in conceptual analysis, collection and evaluation of materials from a variety of methodological perspectives, critical reading and reflection, and effective written presentation of their research and conclusions.

**Course Requirements:**

	Weight	Date
One mid-term, in-class exam	50%	29 July 2009
One research paper	50%	17 Aug 2009

There will be no registrar scheduled final examination.

The term paper should be 12-15 pages in length (typed, double-spaced) and follow normal scholarly conventions. Fuller expectations for the paper will be distributed in the first week of class. The penalty for late papers will be a drop of one grade (e.g. From B to B-) for every day the paper is late. Short extensions may be granted in **very** extenuating circumstances and only if you see the instructor as soon as possible. **No extensions will be granted in the week before the paper is due.**

**Grading:**

A numerical grade will be given for each course requirement with a letter grade awarded as the cumulative grade for the course. Below is the table approved by the Dept of Religious Studies:

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

**NB. POLICY REGARDING MISSED/LATE ASSESSMENTS**

**Test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’.**

**This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.**