

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016, Block week**

**Course** Religious Studies 346 L01 – **Chaos, Demons and Monsters**  
**Time** January 4-8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, MTWRF, 9am-5pm  
**Instructor** Dr. Tinu Ruparell  
**Office Hours** M 13:00-14:00 and by appointment  
**Office** SS558  
**E-mail** [ruparell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 220 7069

**Required Text(s):**

Beale, Timothy K. *Religion and its Monsters*, London: Routledge, 2001. Other readings will be made available on D2L

**Block Week Course Description:**

Please note that this course will run from Mon 4<sup>th</sup>– Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

This course will run for 5 days during block week from 9 am to approximately 5 pm daily. Success in this block week course requires full attendance, thorough preparation and engagement with the material and, of course, prompt submission of all assessed requirements. **Failure to complete and submit all assessed course requirements will result in a grade of F for the course. NO extensions will be permitted and NO late papers will be accepted without a medical certificate.**

Students should be aware of the following important regulations concerning Block Week courses: The last day to **drop** a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the **end of the first day of lectures**. The last day to **withdraw** from a Block Week course is the **final day of lectures during the Block Week**. Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

**Description of content:** What does our preoccupation with monsters, the forces of chaos, demons and anti-gods tell us about religious ways of being? That is, how does our interest in the negative aspects of existence define our highest goals and aspirations? While it is notoriously difficult to understand the sublime, perfect transcendent, we seem to have little problem imagining its opposite – indeed our notions of transcendence and divinity may best be understood as the necessary, polar opposites of the monstrous and demonic immanent. This course will consider the monstrous, demonic and chaotic in order to understand how human beings have dealt with this ‘dark side’ as well as what they can tell us about religion’s higher goals.

## Core Competencies:

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on some key issues in the study of religion through depictions of the monstrous in popular culture. In so doing they will gain critical reading, interpretive and analytic skills. Additionally, students will begin to acquire abilities in forming clear, concise and cogent arguments, develop their writing and communication skills and broaden their perspectives on the place of religion in our cultures. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the humanities as well as in wider social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect more clearly and critically on the relationship between religion and culture and on their own religious or irreligious narratives.

**Online elements for this course (if any):** Some resources will be posted on D2L. However, please note that lecture notes/Powerpoint will not be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to attend lectures and make notes.

## Assessment: *Please note policy regarding exams below*

	Date	Description	Weight
Presentations	<b>January 6,7,8<sup>h</sup></b>	each morning from the 6 <sup>th</sup> January, 15-20 students will each present a 10 minute oral analysis of previous materials we have looked at in class, in the light of questions/issues arising from readings and lectures** These presentations will be the basis of discussion, in the light of which students are expected to revise their presentations and submit them in written form by the due date, Jan 11th	20%
Revised presentation paper	<b>January 11<sup>th</sup> Noon, Dept office SS558</b>	After discussion of your presentation, you are to submit a 1000 word (revised) paper of your presentation topic. No emailed papers will be accepted	30%
Essay	<b>January 18<sup>th</sup> , Noon, Dept office, SS558</b>	A written 2000 word paper is due on questions to be posted to D2L on January 8 <sup>th</sup> . Details of expectations for the paper will accompany the questions. No emailed papers will be accepted.	50%

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.** Please note, grades for block week classes may not be posted until the end of the semester, in line with grades for regular semester courses.

NB: \*\* Failure to submit an assessment/write an exam will result in an F for that assessment. Given the compressed nature of the course NO exceptions or rescheduling will be allowed without extremely extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by relevant medical certificates, etc. This is to help ensure that the course is completed in the required time. Students who know or suspect that they will be unable to attend the class regularly or have to miss one of the assessment dates should reconsider their participation in this course.

**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:

A+ 96 –100%	A 90-95%	A- 85-89%
B+ 80-84%	B 75-79%	B- 70-74%
C+ 65-69%	C 60-64%	C- 55-59%
D+ 53-54%	D 50-52%	F < 50%

**Syllabus:**

A full Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class and posted to D2L shortly prior to that date.

**References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and 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](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This course will require students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and, presentations and exercises will inform the grade for your paper and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other forms, so if you cannot avoid missing a class, please ask a fellow student for notes which you have missed. Lectures will assume knowledge of the assigned texts and will be analytic in nature.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. While respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed in this course, you are strongly encouraged not to use them at

all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

### **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/](http://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](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](mailto: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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.