

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019

Course RELS 363 Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion
Time TR 12:30 – 13:45
Instructor Katrin Froese
Office Hours Tuesday 14:00 – 15:00
Office SS 546
E-mail froese@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 403-220-3282

Required Text(s):

Plato's Republic, translated G. M. A. Grube, 2nd Edition. Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

The Essential Augustine. Tr. Vernon Bourke, 2nd Edition. Hackett Publishing Company, 1974.

Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Bare Reason*. Hackett Publishing Company, 2009.

W. J. Johnson, translator. *The Bhagavad Gita*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

The Daodejing: Translated Roger Ames. Ballantine/Random House, 2003.

Additional Readings will be posted on D2L

Optional Text(s):

Course Description:

This course examines some fundamental philosophical, ethical and religious questions from a variety of perspectives, drawing upon Western and Eastern traditions. The course is not intended as a survey of these systems of thought but rather aims to encourage cross-cultural comparisons of metaphysical, ethical, and religious ideas.

Online elements for this course:

(if any) Readings will be posted online.

Core Competencies:

Emphasis will be placed on developing analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to engage with these texts in order to reflect on some of the prevailing assumptions of contemporary societies. There will be lots of opportunity for class discussion. Class attendance is mandatory since these are difficult texts.

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight	Required pass/fail
October 15	Midterm exam	40%	No
November 21	Essay	45%	No
November 28	Final test	15%	No

*You may choose to count the exam for which you receive the highest grade for 40% and the other midterm for 15%. In other words, if your grade for the final in-class exam is higher than that of the mid-term, you may count that for 40%. This is intended to give you an incentive to improve after the first test.

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: All components must be completed to pass the course. A missed component will result in a grade of F.

*You may choose to count the exam for which you receive the highest grade for 40% and the other midterm for 15%. In other words, if your grade for the final in-class exam is higher than that of the mid-term, you may count that for 40%. This is intended to give you an incentive to improve after the first test.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments: Students must write all exams in order to pass the course. Exams must be written on the exam date. In the case of a missed exam, students **must** contact the instructor no later than 24 hours after the missed exams. All make-up exams will be held during the last week of classes and will be completely different from the original exam. Make-up exams are only allowed in cases of emergency and will be completely different from the first exam.

Policy on Late assignments

*Late assignments will be marked down at a rate of 3% per day. Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances. **Warning:** I am very firm on due dates and policies on extensions and do not appreciate having my email flooded with all sorts of elaborate stories during the time period when assignments are due. Computer breakdown and having other assignments due at the same time are not valid reasons for extensions. It is your responsibility to start early enough in order to be able to complete the assignments. Do not wait until the last minute. Students are expected to make back-up copies of all their assignments and to submit hard copies.*

Expectations for student conduct:

We will be reading difficult texts in this class. You are strongly advised to keep up with the readings, because I do not summarize them in class. Instead I will explore different analyses as well as implications of the ideas presented in them. These are not the kind of readings one can simply cram the night before an exam or the day before an essay is due.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to try to borrow notes from another student. I do not hand out lecture notes, nor do I do make-up tutorials for students who miss classes.

Talking in class, texting, and surfing the internet are disrespectful towards the instructor and to other students. You will be asked to leave the class if you repeatedly engage in such behavior. Do not expect help outside of class, either via email or in office hours if you are not paying attention in class

Electronic Device Policy:

You may use electronic equipment for taking notes only (ie ipads and laptops). Use of cell phones is not permitted. If you use your laptop for anything other than taking notes you will not do well in the class. You may be asked to leave the class if you use your electronic devices for other things, as this is distracting to the instructor and to other students

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> 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 Block.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP):

https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@su.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/m-1.html>.