

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

06/01/05

**RELS 363 L01 – COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**

Instructor:	Dr. K. U. Froese
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Office / hours:	SS 1328 / TBA
Class time:	T / 11:00-12:15

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

This course examines some fundamental philosophical 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.

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.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Mid-term exam	February 16	40%
In-class exam	April 11	10%
Final paper (8-10 pages)	Due in class April 13	50%

Paper topics will be distributed in class and will require students to engage in a cross-cultural comparison by drawing on Western and Eastern works. The in-class exams **MUST** be written on the date specified. Make-up tests will only be granted under *exceptional* circumstances and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Plato, *The Republic*  
Augustine, *The Essential Augustine*  
*The Bhagavad-Gita*  
Confucius, *Analects*  
Kant, *Groundwork on the Metaphysics of Morals*

**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+	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.

**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.*

**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 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.

**WITHDRAWING FROM COURSES:**

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

**RECORDING OF LECTURES:**

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 PROGRAMME:**

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 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](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### **Plato's Republic**     *January 10-26*

Required reading: Plato, Republic Bk. I-VII

*Themes:* Greek history and philosophy in the time of Socrates  
character of Socrates and notions of the soul  
relationship between philosophy and politics  
nature of justice  
equality of the sexes  
idea of the Good-myth of the cave

### **Bhagavad-Gita**     *January 31-February 16*

Required readings: Chs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13-15

*Themes:* Ambiguity of war  
Relativity of good and evil  
relationship between changeable and unchangeable  
Soul: brahman and atman  
Wisdom and happiness  
Desire  
Yoga  
Dharma and duty

### **Augustine**     *February 28-March 9*

Required Readings: *The Essential Augustine*

Chs VII (pp. 149-166; 172-174), VIII, IX, X

*Themes:* the classical and religious mind  
the trend of otherworldliness and the rise of Christianity  
Jesus and his social teachings  
Early Christianity  
types of heresy  
religion and its accommodation with politics  
nature of God and human beings  
sin and the problem of free will  
grace  
City of God and the City of Man  
Christianity and the state  
doctrine of the just war  
the drama of salvation and the view of history

### **Kant- Groundwork on the Metaphysics of Morals**     *March 14-21*

*Themes:* categorical imperative

Reason as an end in itself  
Heteronomous desires  
Good will  
Practical reason  
Relationship between religion and morality

### **Confucius-Analects**     *March 23-April 13*

Required readings: Books 1,2,4,7,12,13,16,17,20

*Themes:* Ritual  
Tradition  
Learning  
Righteousness  
Benevolence  
Family  
Sage-ruler  
Destiny