

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2022, Block week**

<b>Course</b>	Religious Studies 370 – <b>Gods, Demons, and Monsters</b>
<b>Time</b>	Aug 29-Sep 2, 2022, MTWRF, 9am-5pm PF128
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
<b>Office Hours</b>	T 13:00-14:00 and by appointment
<b>Office</b>	SS558
<b>E-mail</b>	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
<b>Telephone</b>	403 220 7069

**REQUIRED TEXT(S):**

Beale, Timothy K. *Religion and its Monsters*, London: Routledge, 2001. Full, downloadable, access available from UCalgary library. Other readings will be made available on D2L

Course Calendar Description: A comparative and theoretical examination of the concepts/roles of god, divinities, monsters, demons and other supernatural objects of belief, devotion and fear.

**BLOCK WEEK COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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.

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 posted 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 Gods and religious ways of being? That is, how does our interest in the negative aspects of existence define their opposites: our concepts of god(s), our highest goals and aspirations, and our understanding of what it means to be human? 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 concepts of the divine transcendent, 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 and divine 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 and academic 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.

## ASSESSMENT: *PLEASE NOTE POLICY REGARDING EXAMS BELOW*

	Date	Description	Weight
Exam 1	<b>Aug 30</b>	Exam covering the pre-reading material from the Beale textbook (Chapters Intro – 3 inclusive)	30%
Presentations	<b>TBA</b>	Group Presentations on topics covered in class informed by readings and class discussion	30%
Final Essay	<b>Sep 9</b>	2000 word paper due noon, Sep 9 via D2L dropbox	40%
All assessments must be completed for a passing grade in this course			
<b>There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.</b>			

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. Please do not request grades before this time.

NB: \*\* Failure to submit an assessment/write an exam will result in an F for that assessment. Given the compressed nature of the course. Exceptions or rescheduling will not be allowed without extremely extenuating circumstances. 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%
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### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY (FOR IN-PERSON COURSES):**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for note-taking and other in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades (Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online* First May 22, 2014). I strongly urge you 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 prohibited. If students persist in texting, using 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. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will not be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. **No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission.** If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website

at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for

Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/).

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. **These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit, prior and written consent of the instructor.** The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites, discord servers or any other hosting site without permission is prohibited and may result in an F for the course and/or academic or non-academic misconduct. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

