



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Winter 2022**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 373.15 LEC 02

**COURSE NAME:** Research and Critical Inquiry in Religious Studies: Sisters Saints and Sinners

**PRE/CO-REQUISITES: (optional to include) N/A**

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** ST 126

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** In person TuTh, 2:00PM - 3:15PM

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:**

Dr Carolyn Muessig

Email: carolyn.muessig@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 403 220 3286

Office hours: TuTh, 4:00-5:00pm

Office location: SS 518

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:**

You may email me with queries related to the unit using your ucalgary email. Please send queries Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I will normally respond to emails sent via your @ucalgary email within 48 hours during standard work hours (this excludes responding on weekends and holidays). You should check your University of Calgary email account once each weekday.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

Topics may include an overview of a specific religious tradition, an examination of religious expressions in a particular context, a thematic study of a religion or religions, or a methodological approach to the study of religion. (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.html> )

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**Topics in Religious Studies: Sisters, Saints and Sinners: Women and the Medieval Church**

The place of women in the ecclesiastical structure of the medieval Church (c. 500-1500) and in religious society was multifaceted and at times provided women with positions of unprecedented authority. This unit will examine and assess the role of medieval women as teachers, preachers, holy leaders and as heretics. We look at four women: the Virgin Mary; the twelfth-century polymath, prophetess and nun Hildegard of Bingen; the sinful saint Mary Magdalene; and the fourteenth-century warrior, and one time heretic, and then saint, Joan of Arc.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Acquired an understanding of the history of women in medieval Christianity in western Europe.
2. Acquired through reasoned arguments based on evidence, an informed perception religious beliefs and practices within their historical and social contexts.
3. Acquired skills through written assignments, presentations and class discussion of how to reflect upon, present, analyse and evaluate complex ideas and arguments.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

There are no required textbooks. Rather, this unit will rely on a number of texts that are available online via the University of Calgary Library. These include:

Barrett, W.P. (2014). *The Trial of Jeanne d'Arc* (Routledge Revivals) (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/10.4324/9781315819921>

Flanagan, Sabina. *Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179 : a Visionary Life*. London ; New York: Routledge, 1998.

Jansen, Katherine Ludwig. *The Making of the Magdalen: Preaching and Popular Devotion In the Later Middle Ages*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2001. <https://hdl-handle-net.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/2027/heb.04169>. EPUB.

*The Life of the Virgin: Maximus the Confessor*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. Accessed December 19, 2021.

Additional weekly readings, including peer-reviewed journal articles, will be posted on D2L.

## LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains links to some required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

Although this is an in-person class, students should aim to have reliable access to technology in order to access D2L and to prepare and submit assignments.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

A detailed class schedule will be made available the first day of class.

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

There are four assessment components that all align to learning outcomes 1,2,3. These consist of a critical reflection, short essay, recorded presentation OR short essay, and diary entry. Criteria for assessment will be discussed in class and posted on D2L.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Monday, 31 January, 11:59pm. Submission via Dropbox of a 600-word critical reflection on the Virgin Mary.	Assignment 1: Virgin Mary. A critical reflection is not a summary of a reading but rather an opportunity for you to internalize and evaluate significant shifts in perspective that require openness and curiosity. In this regard you are to assess if and how your understanding of the	15%

	role of the Virgin Mary in the Christian tradition has shifted/evolved over the last three weeks.	
Monday, 28 February 11:59PM Submit via Dropbox an 800-word essay on the polymath and nun Hildegard of Bingen.	Assignment 2: You are to write an 800-word essay on Hildegard of Bingen indicating what you believe is the most significant role she played/s in the Christian Church.	25%
Monday, 21 March 11:59PM Submit via Dropbox either a 15-minute Zoom presentation or 800-word essay on Mary Magdalene.	Assignment 3: Mary Magdalene can be described not only as a saint but as a sinner. Explain why this sinning saint was a popular role model in the Middle Ages. You can do this in one of two ways. You can either present and record a 15-minute presentation on Zoom; <b>or</b> an alternative assessment of an 800-word essay on the same subject.	25%
Monday, 14 April 11.59pm Submit via Dropbox a 1000-word diary entry relating to Joan of Arc.	Assignment 4: Diary entry: Prepare a 1000-word diary entry as if written by Joan of Arc that gives her response/assessment of her condemnation and rehabilitation as well as what historical contribution she believed she made in her short life to Christianity.	35%

### MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If you miss a required component of the course, you must contact me in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

### 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.

See also <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

Your final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in written assignments must be properly documented. Please be sure to consult a manual of style for your written assignments. I am happy with whatever one you use, but you need to indicate to me which one you are using. If you need recommendations, the latest edition of any of the following would be fine: *The Chicago Manual of Style*; *MLA Handbook*; *Turabian: A Manual for Writers*.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component.

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All your assignments will be submitted via Dropbox in DTL. Please submit in either Word or PDF format. **(Word is preferred as it easier for me to write feedback on a Word document)**. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name Assignment Number" (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). **Always number your pages**. Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

## **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS**

**The use of laptop is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities.** Do not access websites and resources distract you and/or other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy.

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with me.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS**

### **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 remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. 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>.

### **MEDIA RECORDING**

#### ***Media recording for the assessment of student learning***

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **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 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 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