

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2018

Course	Religious Studies 377: Research and Critical Inquiry in Religious Studies
Time	9:00am-5:00pm Aug 27-31 st 2018
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell/ Ms. Saundra Lipton
Office Hours	MWF 16:00-17:00 or by appointment
Office	SS530 /TFDL 530c
E-mail	ruparell@ucalgary.ca lipton@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	4032207069 4032203793

Required Text(s): Pals, D. *Nine Theories of Religion*. 3rd ed. Oxford: OUP, 2015

Optional Text(s): readings will be made available on D2L

Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition. Available at bookstore and online here:

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to theoretical and methodological considerations in the academic study of religion, as well as provide instruction in research methods and academic writing. A number of important theories concerning religion will be considered from which arise questions concerning the appropriate methods relevant to studying religion. The course will help students develop skills in critical evaluation of religious claims, practices and beliefs. Students will develop a research topic wherein they will be able to apply the skills and knowledge gained through the research methods and academic writing elements of the course. Students will have the opportunity to present their work to the class.

Online elements for this course:

Workbook, quizzes and readings available on the D2L site for this course.

Core Competencies:

Engaged students in this class can expect to gain skills in research and academic writing, a greater understanding of the academic study of religion, as well as a more critical awareness of the methodological and theoretical issues which arise from its practice.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
27 Aug 2018	Pre-reading exam	30
27 Aug 2018	Completion of non-graded quiz and survey	2
August 27/28/29 2018	Completion of ungraded Block Week exercises	3
31 Aug 2018	In class presentations	40
31 Aug 2018	Reflective bibliography	15
31 Aug 2018	Quiz on research skills	10

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:

Given this is a block week course, **assessment dates are firm** and no accommodation can be made to change the time or dates. If you know you are unable to attend assessment times and dates, you may wish to reconsider your participation in the class.

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 exams or presentations 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 may not be posted until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

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/presentation and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. Lecture notes will not be made available on-line or in other form, 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 is not permitted in class** and you may leave the room to text in emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities deemed by the instructor 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

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first day 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 <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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/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 www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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/>.