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

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 377-01

COURSE NAME: Research and Critical Inquiry in Religious Studies

CLASSROOM LOCATION: SS 541

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: TuTh 11:00-12:15

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE: Craig Ginn, PhD
cwcginn@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 by appointment (alternate hours by appointment). The instructor will be available for individual sessions by appointment, structured in 15-minutes intervals. Please contact the instructor via email to request an appointment. For students that are not available during office hours, please contact the instructor via email to request an alternate time.

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: Email must be sent through your U of C email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as gmail or hotmail. Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT: Systematic instruction in research methods, academic writing, and the practice of critical analysis in the field of Religious Studies. Besides practical instruction, students will be introduced to a variety of methods and theories used in the academic study of religion. This course may not be repeated for credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is religion? What is constitutive to religion? Is religion distinct from other social institutions, cultural practices, ideologies, and belief systems? If religion is not a distinct and independent phenomenon, what is it? How is religion studied? Does it make a difference if one studies from the inside or the outside? What methods are suited to the study of religion? What is the benefit of studying religion? What is the discipline of religious studies?

This course will explore these questions and more, seeking to provide students with an introduction to the study of religion. Course material will introduce students to leading figures in the study of religion and demonstrate how scholars have framed their inquiries into the nature and function of religion. Various disciplinary approaches will be considered including philosophy, sociology, anthropology, theology, phenomenology, and psychology. Course material will consider some of the key opponents of religion and their arguments in the critical evaluation of religion.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

➢ identify key terms and concepts in the study of religion
➢ discuss dimensions of religion
➢ explore the nature and function of religion
➢ recognize and assess disciplinary approaches and research methods
➢ access and retrieve authoritative sources
➢ conduct research in the study of religion
➢ differentiate between confessional and academic writing
➢ develop skills in research design, academic writing and editing
➢ recognize and apply balanced judgment in the study of religion
➢ discuss the subject of religion in verbal and written communication

LEARNING RESOURCES: *The Study of Religion*. Hillary Rodrigues and John S. Harding, London and New York, Routledge (2009). *Full text available through the U of C library

Additional readings and resources will be posted on D2L.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS: There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
A current and updated web browser;
Webcam (built-in or external);
Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
Broadband internet connection.
Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Posted on D2L

EXAMINATIONS*: There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.*

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Test 1	Includes course material from January 13 to February 15. This timed assessment will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on February 17 and will be available for 24 hours. When you access the assessment, you will have 50 minutes to complete and submit it. This assessment will consist of 30 questions. If you experience an issue that affects your ability to complete the assessment, which can include (but is not limited to) issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment, you will need to contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange an alternate or (in the case of technical issues) extended time to write	25%

	the assessment.	
Test 2	March 24 (Includes course material from March 1 – March 22)	25%
Research Design	Students must submit their research design as a **word document** in Dropbox between February 28-March 4.	15%
Research paper	Students must submit their research paper as a **word document** in Dropbox on or before the day of their student presentation.	25%
Student Presentation	March 29, 31, April 5, 7, 12	10%

RESEARCH DESIGN: The research design must include an abstract (200 words), review of the literature (500-600 words), outline (point form), and annotated bibliography (400-500 words). Include a word count with each section. Students must submit their research design as a **word document** in Dropbox between February 28-March 4.

RESEARCH PAPER: Length: 1800-2000 words. Do not exceed 2000 words. Assignments that exceed 2000 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words. All research papers must include a word count. Students must submit their research paper as a **word document** in Dropbox on or before the day of their student presentation. Works cited and appendices are not included in the word count. Chicago Citation Style 17th edition is required for the research paper.

STUDENT PRESENTATION: Each student will present their research to the class in a formal presentation. Twenty minutes will be allotted for the presentation with ten minutes allotted for discussion.

WRITING ASSISTANCE: For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing Support. https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

FINAL GRADES: The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests and assignments will not be rounded up). There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to resubmit assignments or retake tests to increase their grade.

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: The weighting for assessments is identified above. The weighting of assessments will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

GRADING: A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned based 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

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 research papers must be properly documented. 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

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Please submit all assignments electronically in the dropbox in D2L. Please submit assignments as a word document. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name Description of Assignment" (e.g., Alex Smith Research Assignment). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm 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: Please be courteous during zoom sessions and in email correspondence.
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

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS: Lectures will be delivered via Zoom. Zoom will be used for office hours to meet individually with students also.
Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss course material as a learning community.
To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.
The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .
If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).
The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a

session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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 the instructor.

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/ .
RESEARCH ETHICS: not applicable

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 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 lesson capture - The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.
NOTE: Students are encouraged to type questions in the chat section of zoom.

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices - The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

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 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