



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

Course Number: RELS 398.01

Course Name: Religion and the Environment

Classroom Location: ST 128

Class Days and Times: 2:00-3:15 Thursdays

Instructor: Chris Framarin (he/him)

Instructor Email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Office Phone #: 403-220-5532 (email is best means of contact)

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment. Office hours are on Zoom only. The link to office hours will be posted to D2L

Email Policy: All course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. I will respond to emails within 48 hours outside of weekends and holidays.

Land Acknowledgment

The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River; the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is “Moh’kins’tsis”, which we now call the City of Calgary.

ii' taa'poh'to'p, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary's [Indigenous Strategy](#), was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful – and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

Course Calendar Statement:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

RELS 398: Consideration of issues of public environmental concern from the perspectives of religious studies and ethics. Possible topics include climate change, water depletion, environmental pollution, animal stresses, species/ecosystem decimation, and the climate refugee problem.

Course description: This course considers issues in environmental ethics and animal ethics in the contexts of certain Hindu religious texts and traditions.

Course Delivery Information: This is a hybrid online/in-person course. All lectures will be presented as videos only, available on D2L. Each week there will be approximately 75 minutes of video lectures assigned – typically distributed over at least two separate video lectures. The total time for these video lectures for the semester will be approximately 50% of the class time scheduled for this class. While students can view these videos at any time, they correspond to the assigned class time of 2:00 – 3:15 on Tuesdays.

The other 50% of this class is in-person discussions sessions and exams. These meetings will occur every Thursday from 2:00 – 3:15. Discussion sessions and review sessions will not be recorded.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Successful students will learn about the beliefs and practices within certain Hindu religious traditions as they relate to the environment and animals.

Successful students will extract arguments from published papers.

Successful students will evaluate arguments from published papers.

Successful students will write original arguments and/or objections to arguments extracted from published papers.

Successful students will revise written work based on peer feedback.

Successful students will compare and/or synthesize the views of different traditions.

Required texts:

Nelson, Lance (ed.). 1998. *Purifying the Earthly Body of God* (Albany: SUNY Press)

Journal articles and book chapters posted to D2L

Required Technology

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;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;

Class Schedule:

First Day of Class: Tuesday, Sept. 6

Term Break: Sunday, Nov. 6 – Saturday, Nov. 12

Last Day of Class: Tuesday, Dec. 6

** A full class schedule will be available on the first day of class. **

Assessment Components:

First Exam (Thursday, October 6)	30%
Second Exam (Thursday, November 3)	30%
Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled)	40%

The first two exams will occur in-person, during the scheduled class time (2:00 – 3:15). Each exam will consist of one two-part question. Each of the two parts of the exam will consist of multiple sub-questions. Exams will be handwritten during class time. The final exam will have the same format, and also be in-person.

Missed or Late Assignments:

If students do not take an exam, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have two points deducted per day.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each exam. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

A student’s 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:

Exams will be graded on organization, clarity, accuracy, and originality. I will not grade exams based on grammar or spelling directly, but grammar errors can indirectly affect the grade by diminishing the clarity of writing.

Additional Course Information:

Attendance and Participation Expectations:

Students should arrive on time, prepared for class. Students should have viewed any relevant lecture material and assigned readings before class. Students must attend in-person sessions on Thursdays in order to do well in the course.

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are 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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices in Class

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University’s Internet and email use policy, which can be found at:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf?utm_source=policies&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

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. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. 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 Accommodation

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 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/.

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>.

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