

The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Arts  
Classics and Religion

Religious Studies 399.01

Fall 2017

Religion and irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning  
Block Week, Sept 5-9 2017, TWRFS 9:00 – 17:00, EDC 388

Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office	SS530
Office Hours	by appointment for block week
Telephone	403-220-7069
Email	<a href="mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca">ruparell@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Texts:**

Readings will be available on the D2L site for the course. All readings will be downloadable in PDF format. It is important that you read each article/chapter in advance of the lecture in which it or its themes are discussed.

**Block Week Course Description:**

Please note that this course will run from Tues Sept 5 – Sat Sept 9 2017.

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. NO extensions will be permitted and NO late papers 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 will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

This is a mid-level course aimed at examining how religious, non-religious and anti-religious perspectives have been expressed through the medium of film – and how film has forced us to interrogate the nature of religion. We will be interested in exploring various philosophical issues arising out of the filmmaker's interaction with culture and the way in which these interactions relate to wider religious traditions, themes, practices and concerns. Through an examination of certain key philosophical writings as well as careful analyses of a selection of films, we will interrogate the notion

of religion as a system of meaning production as well as the uses to which film has been put in expressing these meanings.

**Core Competencies:**

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on some key issues in the study of religion and film and in so doing 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 contemporary visual culture. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the humanities as well as in wider social 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 assessments below*

	Date	Description	Weight
Test 1	<b>Sept 5<sup>th</sup></b>	An in-class exam covering pre-reading material	20%
Test 2	<b>Sept 9<sup>th</sup></b>	An in-class multiple choice test covering all lecture and written material up to the test	20%
In-class presentations	<b>Sept 7-9</b>	A short presentation on topics to be assigned. A written version (max 1000 words) of the presentation must be submitted on the day you present.	20%
Paper	<b>Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Noon</b>	A 2500 word essay on topics to be assigned. Due in hard copy, by noon, CLARE dept office. No emailed papers will be accepted.	40%

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.**

**Assessment policies:** Failure to write an exam, complete the presentation or submit the paper on time will result in an F in this part of the assessment. Given the compressed nature of the course NO exceptions or rescheduling will be allowed without extremely extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by relevant medical certificates, etc. 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 for the course, 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%

**Online elements for this course:** Some resources will be posted on D2L. However, please note that lecture notes/Powerpoint slides will not be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to attend lectures and make notes. See electronic device policy below

### **Syllabus:**

A full Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class and posted to D2L shortly prior to the first class

### **References and Bibliography:**

This class uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

### **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 and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other forms, 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, phones and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. 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 to be limited to emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing 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 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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

### **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Block.

### **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.