

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Classics and Religion

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019
Religion and Irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning
Block Week, Aug 26-30 2019

Course: RELS 399.2 L02 Religion in Popular Culture

Time: MTWRF 9:00 – 17:00

Room: EDC 284

Instructor: Dr. Tinu Ruparell

Office: SS530

Office Hours: by appointment for block week

Telephone: 403-220-7069

Email: ruparell@ucalgary.ca

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 Monday Aug 26 - Friday Aug 30, 2019.

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	Aug 30	An in-class short answer test covering all lecture and written material up to the test	25%
In-class presentations	Aug 28-30	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.	25%
Paper	Sept 9th Noon	A 2500-word essay on topics to be assigned. Due in hard copy, by noon, CLARE dept office. No emailed papers will be accepted.	50%

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

Please note, grades for each of these elements may not be posted until the final week of the fall term. Please do not contact me requesting grades prior to this time.

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

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

The Department of Classics and Religion 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. 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. (Mueller, *Psychological Studies Online* First May 22, 2014) 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 prohibited. 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 (section K, here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

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. 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 3rd 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.

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.