

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2014

Course	RELS 399.2 L01
Time	TR 0830AM-1430PM ES054
Instructor	Roselle M. Gonsalves
Office Hours	By appointment only
Office	SS1334
E-mail	rgonsalv@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-5612

Required Text(s):

Course Readings will be made available in advance as part of pre-session study (i.e. to be read before the start of class). Subsequent readings will be posted to D2L.

Course Description:

In his book *Religion and Film*, S. Brent Plate writes that religion and film are alike because they both serve to recreate the world as we know it, and present to us an alternative view. This course is an opportunity for class participants to engage with broad questions of religion through the medium of film, particularly pertaining to the human search for redemption, forgiveness, and hope.

By looking thematically and comparatively at the capacity of religion and of film to pattern societal quests for meaning, we can begin to examine the contexts through which scholars of religion can understand religion and film.

Please note that the content of the films chosen for this course may include explicit language, and scenes of violent or sexual natures. The makers of these films have included these aspects of the narrative as a reflection of their own artistic expression. As such, these films will not be censored through this course.

Much is to be said for the value of watching films collectively. Films, as an art form, are created for public (rather than private) consumption. As a group, we see different things than when view films alone. We also often react differently. Even if students have watched some of the course films previously, class viewing of the films is a course requirement. Likely, each viewer will see something new and different this time around!

Core Competencies:

Through RELS399.2, course participants are expected to develop strong skills of critical and independent learning. By actively engaging with course readings, critically reflecting on the films in class, and preparing for lectures, student will be able to benefit from a broad range of learning opportunities that this course has to offer.

Course Requirements:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>
Thursday, May 15	In-class Exam	15
Tuesday, May 20 to Tuesday, June 3	Oral Report	15
Tuesday, May 20 to Tuesday, June 3	Reaction Paper	20
Tuesday, June 3	In-class Essay Exam	20
Tuesday, June 10	Final Analytical Essay	30

The in-class exam scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014 is based on the pre-session study materials distributed pri-

or to class.

On the first day of class, each student will be assigned a topic/film for their oral presentation and another topic/film for their reaction paper. Oral presentations will take place in the first hour of each class between Tuesday, May 20 and Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Reaction papers are due at the beginning of class.

Oral presentations are to be 10-12 minutes in length, and are meant to address the particular question that the student has been assigned.

Reaction papers are to be 2-3 pages (12 pt. form, double spaced) long, and in proper academic format. These papers are meant to address the particular question and film that the student has been assigned.

The analytical essay is due one week after the end of this course. Details for this paper will be discussed on the first day of class.

There is no Registrar-schedule final examination for this course.

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, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

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:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any assignment handed in after the class has commenced will have 10% deducted from the mark.

We live in a technological age and, unless a student was born yesterday¹, he or she is aware that technology has the potential to fail and that the likelihood of such an event doubles the night before a paper is due. With this in mind, students are encouraged to backup assignments regularly. Computer failure and other technological mishaps do not qualify for an extension.

Late assignments/papers will be penalized 15% per day, including weekends.

Missed in-class assignments may be made up, at the discretion of the instructor, and depending on circumstance.

In order to be eligible for a deferral, credible documentation (ex: doctor's note) is needed. The student must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed component to arrange the deferral.

There is no-extra credit work permitted in this course and redistribution of percentage from one assignment to another is not an option.

Expectations for Student Conduct:

This course includes 6 sessions over 3 weeks. Each session is 6 hours long. As such, participants will require patience, fortitude, and endurance.

Attendance and participation are compulsory in order to complete all the components of this course successfully.

All the requirements of the course must be completed and submitted to the instructor.

An incomplete or not submitted requirement will result in an F grade in the course.

¹ Students born yesterday are not permitted to take RELS399.02!

Internet and Electronic Device Policy:

While use of electronics, such as laptops, phones, tablets, etc., is not prohibited, the use of these devices *should* be limited to course-related activities during class time. Should students be unable to refrain from browsing the internet, and engaging in non-course-related activities, the student should sit at the back of the classroom so as not to disrupt the learning opportunity of the students around them with distracting screens.

Syllabus:

In order to facilitate pre-session study, a complete syllabus will be made available in advance of the first class, along with the pre-session readings.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Religious Studies 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.

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, librarian staff or the Chicago Manual of Style.

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 Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

Desire2Learn Help:

As of Spring 2014, the University of Calgary has moved away from the Blackboard Learning Suite, and now uses the Desire2Learn platform. To learn more about D2L, visit <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies undergraduate student club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resource:

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.