

The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 399.06 L01

Winter 2013

Religion and irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning  
Block Week, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2012, WRFSaM 9:00 – 17:00  
MFH 164

Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office	SS1320
Office Hours	by appointment for block week
Telephone	403-220-7069
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**Texts:**

Readings will be available on the Blackboard 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 Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2012 – Sat 5<sup>th</sup> and Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. No classes will be held Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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:**

	Date	Description	Weight
Test 1	<b>January 5th</b>	An in-class exam covering all lectures and readings used in the class	30%
Test 2	<b>January 7<sup>th</sup></b> Please note policy regarding exams	A written exam will be given on the afternoon of Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> in which students will analyse brief clips of films which we have not seen during the course.	20%
Term paper	<b>January 14th</b> Noon, SS1301, Department drop box – no exceptions, no extensions**	A 2000 word paper based on questions to be handed out January 7 <sup>th</sup> immediately following the film. Details of expectations will accompany the questions. No emailed papers will be accepted.	50%

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

NB: \* Failure to write an exam or submit the paper 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 consider their participation in this course.

\*\* Due to the nature of these block week courses, no papers will be accepted after 12 noon on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. No extensions will be granted without extremely extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by relevant medical certificates etc. Failure to submit the paper on time will result in an F in that assessment.

Please note: **No Emailed papers will be accepted. Hard copy is required or you will receive an F in your paper.**

**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:

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%

**Syllabus:**

A full Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class and posted to blackboard shortly prior to that date.

**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**

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.

**Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: [http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbls\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

**Gnosis**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

### **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.

### **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.