

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019

<b>Course</b>	Religious Studies 437 – Hermeneutics and Religion
<b>Time</b>	W 15:00-18:00. SS 527
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
<b>Office Hours</b>	W13:00-14:00 or by appointment
<b>Office</b>	SS530
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:ruparell@ucalgary.ca">ruparell@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	4032207069

**Required Text(s):**

Stanley Porter and Jason Robinson: *Hermeneutics: An Introduction to Interpretive theory*, Erdmans, 2011  
David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 1: The Interpretation of Texts* OUP, 1986  
David Klemm: *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Vol 2: The Interpretation of Existence* OUP 1986  
Paul Ricoeur, *Interpretation Theory, Discourse and the surplus of meaning*. Texas Christian U press, 1976  
Jens Zimmerman, *Hermeneutics, A very short introduction*, OUP, 2015

**Optional Text(s):**

Further readings may be required and will be made available at student expense or through the D2L site for the course

**Course Description:**

This course will consider philosophical issues arising from hermeneutics and interpretation theory. Within a historical context beginning in the west with Schleiermacher and Dilthey, we will be concerned with three main areas: definition of the 'text' and interpretation theory; the development of method in the interpretation of religious texts; and contemporary developments in hermeneutics. The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic appreciation of the variety of ways that hermeneutics has been employed, of the complex problems involved in its definition and use, and of the major issues that continue to be debated with regard to its nature and practice.

**Online elements for this course:**

**(if any)**

n/a

**Core Competencies:**

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the modern history of hermeneutics as well as practice the kinds of arguments employed in hermeneutics theory. As this is a course in theory in the study of religion, students will gain an appreciation of the ongoing discussion on the nature and role of context, subjectivity and history in our understanding of religious texts as well as the wider functions to which hermeneutical theory has been put in more recent times. Committed students will gain in their abilities of analysis, verbal and written communication and critical self-reflection in the context of the study of religion.

**Course Requirements:**

There will be TWO components to the grade for this course:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA	In class presentations	35%
Final essay Due Dec 4 2019with defenses taking place 9-11 Dec (schedule TBA)	Final Research Essay	50%
	plus Oral Defense	15%
(Registrar scheduled)	There is NO registrar scheduled exam for this course	

**Note on oral Defense:**

The oral examination is meant to be an opportunity for the student to discuss further and thereby strengthen their research essay. It is a way by which feedback on the essay can become a springboard for further analysis and discussion. Questions will be based on the student's submitted essay, though, of course, some understanding of the authors and issues covered in class and through the assigned readings will be assumed. The aim of the oral is for students to support the essay and verbal performance in the oral will not be assessed.

**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, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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:**

**In-class presentation dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. If there is an issue with your assigned date for the presentation, please see me as soon as possible.**

**This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.**

**You are expected to be in attendance and participate in all seminars (not just the ones you present in). Failure to attend and participate in all seminars will result in reductions in your presentation grades, at the discretion of the instructor.**

**LATE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. Missing the oral examination without acceptable cause (as above) will result in a 15% penalty on the essay as well as an F on the oral exam component. Missing the presentation will result in an F in that component of the final grade.**

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This is a seminar course which requires 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 will inform the grade for the presentation assessment. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. **You are expected to be in**

**attendance and participate in all seminars (not just the ones you present in). Failure to attend and participate in all seminars will result in reductions in your presentation grades, at the discretion of the instructor.**

### **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. 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.

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

### **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, or librarian staff.

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; 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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

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.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

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

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- 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 Block.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): [https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_and\\_protection\\_of\\_privacy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

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

### **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

### **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>.