

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

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2021

Course	Religious Studies 437 – Hermeneutics and Religion, ONLINE
Time	Thursday 2-5pm
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
TA(s)	n/a
Office	SS 530
Office Hours	Thursday 13:00-14:00 or by appointment
E-mail	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403 220 7069

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 Upress, 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 and other 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

This course will take place **online** via D2L and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement propose an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

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	40%
Final essay Due Nov 25 with oral defense	Final Research Essay	50%
Oral defense Nov 29-Dec 2 (schedule TBA)	Oral exam	10%

There is n 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, 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

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 a presentation, please see me as soon as possible. If you miss the assigned date for your presentation through no fault of your own, you must contact me in writing by email within 24 hours of the missed assessment to negotiate an alternative. The instructor retains the right to reject inequitable proposed alternatives, though every effort will be made to find a suitable option. Failure to follow these directions and/or meet these deadlines will result in an ‘F’ for that assessment.

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 PARTICIPATE IN ALL SEMINARS (NOT JUST THE ONES YOU PRESENT IN).

Failure to 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.

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

Internet and Electronic Communication 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.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically by email to ruparell@ucalgary.ca. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name Assignment Number" (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted. Please ensure you send the correct version as I reserve the right to reject subsequent versions after the first received.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor as soon as possible before the scheduled time.

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy

While we will be using internet resources heavily during this course, 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) During Zoom sessions I strongly suggest that you do not use a laptop or computer for notes. Note taking using a pen and paper has been shown to aid learning and recall. (Carter, Greenberg, and Walker “SEII Discussion Paper” #2016.02)

References and Bibliography

The Department 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.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/ .

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**
- **Student Success**
- **Student Ombuds Office**
- **Student Union (SU) Information**
- **Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information**
- **Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points**
- **Safewalk**