

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 443-01
Comparative Mystical Traditions

05/09/13
Fall 2005
F 10:00-12:50

Instructor

Dr. Tinu Ruparell

Office

SS1320

Office Hours

M 15:00-16:30 or by appointment

Telephone

220 7069

Email

ruparell@ucalgary.ca

Texts:

A Reader of articles will be available during the first week of class. The Reader can be bought through the Students Union Copy Centre in the MacEwan Student Center

Course Description:

This is an upper-level undergraduate seminar concerned with the nature and role of mystical experiences in a comparative religious context. The seminar will focus on three central questions, inherent in the course title: namely what is mystical experience and how are we to analyse it?; how can religious experience be compared if at all?; and how should we understand the notion of a religious tradition and what role does mysticism play in this idea? Course topics may include esoteric and exoteric epistemologies, the essentialist/constructivist debate, religious experience as grounds for interreligious dialogue, apophatic traditions and the neurological basis/correlate of mystical experience.

Core Competencies:

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the comparative study of mystical traditions in western and eastern religious traditions and gain an appreciation for both the similarity and diversity of mystical writings. Additionally, students will develop their written and oral communication skills as well as their analytic and critical abilities. As this is an upper level undergraduate course, some ability to construct clear, cogent and concise arguments will be assumed while allowing that these will be sharpened through the course. The ability to critically reflect on one's own and other's presuppositions will be a key skill to be further developed in this course.

Course Requirements

Date	Assessment	Weight
N/A	Seminar participation	10%
Final 3 weeks of class (Schedule TBA)	In-Class presentation	40%
Dec 9 th 2005	Research paper	50%

There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam.

A written copy of your presentation will be due on the date of your presentation and will, along with your performance, be used to assess your presentation. Feedback on the presentation will be given on the written copy. More information on the presentations will be given in class.

Grading:

A numerical grade will be given for each course requirement with a letter grade awarded as the cumulative grade for the course. Below is the table approved by the Dept of Religious Studies:

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%

NB. POLICY WITH REGARDING MISSED ASSESSMENTS

Presentation:

Presentation dates, once agreed, are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed presentations will be awarded an 'F'.

Final Research Paper:

Due date for the final research paper is also firm. Requests for extensions will receive little attention unless you have an extremely valid reason (e.g. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) for handing the paper in late, and no extensions will be granted after Dec 3rd 2005. Please see me before this date if you require an extension. Late essays will be penalised 5%/day.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus for this course will be made available from the first week of lectures.

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:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Safewalk Programme:

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Gnosis:

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