# THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF ARTS DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2012 COURSE OUTLINE

Religious Studies 447 L01: Theories of Religion

Time and Date of Class: R 14:00-16:45

Instructor: M. Joy Office: SS 1318

Office Hours: T 3:00-4:00pm
Phone: 403-220-7995
Email: mjoy@ucalgary.ca

#### **Set Texts**

Richard Horsley *Religion and Empire*, Fortress Press, 2003. Charles Taylor, *Modern Social Imaginaries*, Duke University Press, 2004.

# Select Bibliography from which extracts will be taken:

D. N. Hopkins, L.A. Lorentzen et al. (Eds.), *Religions/ Globalizations: Theories and Cases*, Duke University Press, 2001.

Richard Horsley, Religion and Empire, Fortress Press, 2003.

Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu (Eds.), Appropriating Gender, Routledge, 1998.

Uma Narayan, Dislocating Cultures, Routledge, 1997.

### **Books on Reserve**

Ivan Strenski Thinking About Religion: An Historical Introduction to Theories of Religion

Daniel L. Pals Eight Theories of Religion

## **Course Description:**

This course will examine contemporary issues that are of relevance for the study of religion. It will assume a basic knowledge of method and theory, and will be based on readings from recent books that discuss these issues from various perspectives. Such a course will provide students with an awareness of the larger debates that are informing present day global society, and the contribution that scholars of religion can make to these debates.

#### **Course Format:**

The course will include lectures and class discussion. Each week certain students will be asked to prepare questions from the assigned readings for the class discussion.

#### Blackboard:

The blackboard system will be used for communication, reporting grades on papers, and posting notes and announcements.

## **Core Competencies:**

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas in both written assignments and oral presentations.

**Requirements:** 4 short essays of 5-6 pages 15% each

Due dates: Sept. 27; Oct. 18; Nov. 8; Nov. 29

1 final essay of 15 pages due at the last class 40%

## **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	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	В	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	С	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

#### **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 <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard">http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard</a> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students</a>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: <a href="http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6">http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6</a> <a href="http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6">http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6</a> <a href="http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6">http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6</a> <a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard.com/docs/r6/6">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard.com/docs/r6/6</a> <a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard.com/docs/r6/6">http://e

#### 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.

#### **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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<sup>\*</sup>There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

<u>http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</u> 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 <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a> for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at <a href="mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca">arts1@ucalgary.ca</a>.

#### **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 <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a>. 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.