UNITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2020
Religious Studies 484.7

Advanced Studies in Christianity: The Performance of Religious Authority

Course	The Performance of Religious Authority		
Time	Monday 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM		
Room	SS 527		
Instructor	**Office Hours**	**Office**	**Contact Information**
Dr. Joy Palacios	Mon. 3:00-4:00 PM
Tue. 3:30-4:30 PM	SS 534	E: joy.palacios@ucalgary.ca
T: 403-220-3285

Required text(s):

All texts will be made available as web links or PDFs on D2L.

Optional text(s):

Course description:

Priests and pastors in the Christian tradition exert tremendous influence over the faithful. Metaphors for clergymen reflect their status by calling them fathers, shepherds, and, in certain sacramental contexts, even kings. What, though, is the basis for their authority and how much does it really shape a believer's daily life and religious practices? This course will use ritual theory and performance theory to examine the types of institutional structures and personal performances that produce religious authority. Rather than taking a chronological view, we will examine three pastoral types – Catholic priests, megachurch pastors, and women ministers – that represent key strategies and challenges encountered by clergy as they lead congregations. First, we will analyze how Catholic priests draw on institutional supports for religious authority, as exemplified by the sacrament of order, religious rules, and liturgical tradition. Second, we will consider how megachurch pastors construct their authority using performance-based methods like preaching, charisma, and professional music. Finally, we will reflect on the gendered nature of these various bases for religious authority by examining the challenges and opportunities faced by women in ministry, paying particular attention to empathy, community, and embodiment as sources of power.

Online elements for this course:
(if any)

Core Competencies:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify, compare, and apply key theories of authority and of performance
- Analyze the ritual and discursive elements deployed by spiritual leaders to generate authority
- Differentiate primary from secondary sources in the context of a specific research project

- Compose a close-reading of a primary text that is informed by secondary sources
- Generate an original scholarly argument
- Present that original argument in oral and written forms
- Give, receive, and respond to constructive feedback about their own arguments and those of their peers

Course Requirements:
This course will entail the following assessments:

1. Participation = 10%

   Your contribution to class discussions and participation in in-class activities fosters your own learning and helps produce the knowledge examined by this course. Accordingly, a portion of your grade (10%) will reflect your in-class engagement with course material. See the handout on participation for more information.

2. Reading Responses = 15% (3 x 5%)

   I have divided our course material into three units on priests, megachurch pastors, and women ministers respectively. For each unit, you will prepare a reading response of one-to-two pages for one session of your choice. Your reading response should use one of the secondary sources assigned for that session to analyze that session's primary source. Reading responses are due the Friday before the selected course session at 11:59 PM and are worth 5% each, for a total of 15% of the final grade. I will provide a handout with more details and students will sign up for their reading response dates on the first day of class.

3. Draft of Final Paper = 15%

   In order to help you begin thinking about your final paper early, students will submit a draft of their final paper right after we return from reading week. I will provide detailed feedback on your draft, which you will be expected to incorporate into the final version submitted at the end of the semester. I will provide a handout with more details.

4. Oral Presentation = 20%

   During the last two weeks of the semester, each student will give an oral presentation (10-15 minutes with slides) of their final paper. This assignment simulates the type of idea sharing in which academics engage at conferences, strengthens oral communication skills, and provides an opportunity to receive feedback on your paper's central argument.

5. Final Paper = 40%

   At the end of the semester, each student's individual research will culminate in a final paper that analyzes at last one primary source from the semester, uses at least one theoretical

framework from the course, and relies on peer-reviewed secondary materials gathered through your own research. See handout for more details.

- Students in RELS 484 will write a paper of 12-15 pages (approx. 3000-3750 words) using at least 600 pages of source material
- Students in RELS 601 will write a paper of 15-18 pages (approx. 3750-4500 words) using 800 pages of source material
- Students in RELS 701 will write a paper of 18-20 pages (approx. 4500-5000 words) using 1000 pages of source material

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Ongoing	Participation	10%	
Three times selected by student	Reading Responses	15%	
24 February 2020	Draft of Paper	15%	
30 March or 6 April 2020	Oral Presentation	20%	
~~8 April 2020~~ 13 April 2020	Final Paper	40%	
There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam in this course			

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:
Requests for extensions should be accompanied by supporting documentation, as per the Supporting Documentation and use of a Statutory Declaration regulation stated at the end of this course outline. For more information about the Statutory Declaration process, see also:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals

Late work will be marked down by one third of a grade per day (for example, from an A to A-).

Expectations for student conduct in this course:
Your active participation is important for your own learning as well as the learning of your peers. I will structure in-class time in ways that foster and facilitate your engagement with the course materials. Readings assigned for a given date on the schedule should be completed before class begins. Often, I will begin class with a brief lecture highlighting what I think is important in the readings. However, I will design interactive activities that will prompt you to explain, analyze, compare, or apply the ideas and information

covered in the readings. Your participation grade will be based on your involvement in these activities. Come to class ready to think and share.

During class discussions and activities, I expect each member of the course to help me create a positive learning environment by listening respectfully to each other, using transitions ("As Julia said, I think…", "I agree/disagree with Mohad because…", "I want to build on that idea…"), and by refraining from statements that signal judgment. We will be discussing material that can be sensitive and about which members of the course may have strong feelings. For this reason, all members of the class will be asked to use vocabulary that signals observation, description, analysis, scholarly argument, and hypothesis formation.

Electronic Device Policy:
Electronic devices are allowed in this course and will sometimes be used for in-class activities. (I, too, after all, will have my laptop with me to provide PowerPoint presentations and my phone so I can use its timer to keep our activities on track.) I do, however, expect that all members of the class show respect to their fellow students and the instructor(s) by not wearing headphones, answering phone calls, playing music, or watching their own videos. If a student's use of electronic devices disrupts others, he/she may be asked to leave the room.

Recording any part of the lectures or class sessions in any form must first be approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only.

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/

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.

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. 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

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.

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. 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 hours per 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.