



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Fall 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 484-01 LEC

**COURSE NAME:** Advanced Topics in Christianity: The Body and Theology

**PRE/CO-REQUISITES:** Prerequisite(s): 3 units from Religious Studies 383, 385, 387 or 389. (Please see University Calendar for more description.)

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** SS 533

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** In person; Tuesdays 11:00-12:15 and Thursdays 11:00-12:15

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:**

Dr Carolyn Muessig

Email: carolyn.muessig@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 403 220 3286

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:**

You may email me with queries related to the unit using your ucalgary email. Please send queries Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I will normally respond to emails sent via your @ucalgary email within 48 hours during standard work hours (this excludes responding on weekends and holidays). You should check your University of Calgary email account once each weekday.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

A seminar course examining topics, personalities and movements in Christianity from its origins to its modern and contemporary developments.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Covering the period from the early church to the early fifteenth century, this unit will investigate various ascetic practices found in the premodern world. We will address the following questions: Why did some Christian men and women want to practice celibacy? Why was the preservation of virginity and the avoidance of marriage significant for women wanting to pursue a religious life? What does this tell us about religious, social and historical perceptions of holiness, sexuality, and the body? Why are holy women remembered for their fasting, vigils, and bodily mortifications more than men? Overall we will investigate how and why gender and the human body are key aspects in understanding ritual and devotion in Christianity. In some cases we will bring the discussion into modern/contemporary discourse. Students will engage in class discussions, presentations, produce a student anthology, write essay(s), and have the opportunity to present and record a lecture.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:**

1. Acquired an understanding of the history of the body and its relation to Christian theology.

2. Acquired through reasoned arguments based on evidence, an informed perception of the actions and motivations of religious practices within their historical and social contexts.

3. Acquired skills through written assignments, presentations and class discussion of how to reflect upon, present, analyse and evaluate complex ideas and arguments.

### **LEARNING RESOURCES**

Required Readings, Textbooks, and Learning Materials (available at the UCalgary Bookstore) are as follows:

#### **Primary sources available at bookstore:**

Payer, Pierre J. *Book of Gomorrah An Eleventh-Century Treatise against Clerical Homosexual Practices*. Waterloo, Ont., Canada: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1982.

Talbot, Fanous, Leyser, Talbot, C. H., Fanous, Samuel, and Leyser, Henrietta. *The Life of Christina of Markyate*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Christina Mazzone, ed. and John Cirignano, trans., *Angela of Foligno's Memorial*. Library of Medieval Women. Woodbridge and Rochester, D.S. Brewer, 1999.

**In some cases, primary source material will be available online. When possible, links to be provided on D2L.**

**The following are key texts books on the topic of body and theology and are all available as ebooks via the University of Calgary Library. There is no expectation that you purchase these.**

Brown, Peter. *The Body and Society Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. [A second edition appeared in 2008, but the text remains largely unchanged.]

Brundage, James A. *Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

Bynum, Caroline Walker. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: the Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

Fanous, Samuel, Henrietta. Leyser. *Christina of Markyate a Twelfth-century Holy Woman*. London/New York: Routledge, 2004.

Muessig, Carolyn. *The Stigmata in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

**A more detailed bibliography will be made available at the start of term.**

### **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains links to some required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

Although this is an in person class, students should aim to have reliable access to technology in order to access D2L and to prepare assignments. Ideally students should have:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

(Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.)

### CLASS SCHEDULE

A detailed class schedule will be made available the first day of class.

### ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

There are four assessment components that all align to learning outcomes 1,2,3. These consist of a group presentation, short essay, recorded lecture and student anthology. Criteria for assessment will be discussed in class and posted on D2L.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Tuesday, 28 September 11:00-12:15 In-class presentation. Submission of presentation outline via dropbox by 28 September 11:59pm. Outline should be no more than one sheet of paper front and back and include the student's name; title of presentation	Assignment 1: Group presentation on Peter Damian and Peter Abelard (class participation mandatory)	20%
Monday, 25 October 11:59PM Submit via Dropbox	Assignment 2: 800-word essay on Christina of Markyate	25%
Monday, 22 November 11:59PM Submit via Dropbox	Assignment 3: Recorded 15-minute lecture (on PowerPoint or Zoom) that explains the stigmata to a fictional audience who knows little or nothing about the topic; <b>or</b> an alternative assessment of an 800-word essay on the same subject.	25%

<p>Monday, 13 December 11.59pm Dropbox</p>	<p>Assignment 4: Student Anthology: This 1200-word reflective exercise will consist of a written commentary by the student on <b>four</b> selected artistic items from any time period and culture chosen by the student (e.g. a poem, artwork, film, musical piece; architectural structure). The commentary will explain why each piece was chosen and how it illustrates a significant disciplinary theory, theme or concept associated with the subjects raised during the course. At least two of the items must relate to Angela of Foligno and Catherine of Siena.</p>	<p>30%</p>
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**MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

If you miss a required component of the course, you must contact me in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

**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.

See also <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

Your final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING**

All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in written assignments must be properly documented. Please be sure to consult a manual of style for your written assignments. I am happy with whatever one you use, but you need to indicate to me which one you are using. If you need recommendations, the latest edition of any of the following would be fine: *The Chicago Manual of Style*; *MLA Handbook*; *Turabian: A Manual for Writers*.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

With the exception of your group presentation, which will be given in class, all your other assignments will be submitted via Dropbox in DTL. Please submit in either Word or PDF format (Word is preferred as it is easier for me to write feedback on a Word document). 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.

## **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS**

**The use of laptop is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities.** Do not access websites and resources distract you and/or other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with me.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS**

### **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 ACCOMODATION**

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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **RESEARCH ETHICS**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

### **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>.

## **MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

### **Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

### **Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

### **Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## **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