

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
COURSE OUTLINE WINTER 2005  
RELS 577 L01 – SENIOR PROJECT SEMINAR

04/12/17

INSTRUCTOR	Irving Hexham
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Chang Han Kim
CLASS TIME	T, 2-4.45
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS	SS 1310 T 12:15 – 1 or by appointment.
TELEPHONE	220-3280
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#### REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books that are available from the University of Calgary Bookstore are required reading:

Em Griffin, *A First Look at Communications Theory*  
Walter Kaufmann, *Critique of Religion and Philosophy*

#### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Students will complete an independent research project on a topic within their area of concentration in Religious Studies and will present their research in a seminar setting.

#### SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION:

This course allows students to bring together their interests in religious studies and exchange ideas with fellow students. To help focus the discussion students will read two textbooks using the first, on communications theory, to develop a theory relevant to their interests and the second, on the critique of religion, to develop a critical stance towards the study of religion. Following the practice established in the department there will be an initial meeting of the entire group during which areas and topics will be discussed. Then students will begin work on their projects and presentation. Towards the end of term a series of presentations will be arranged where each student will present their own work in a seminar setting.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Seminar presentation, date to be arranged, based on each person's area and interests. This is worth 40% of final grade.

A paper, of about 3,000 to 4,000 words, due two weeks before the end of term developing the ideas presented in the seminar. This is worth 40% of final grade.

Group tutorial meetings, to be arranged, with Chang-Han Kim. This is worth 10% of the final grade.

Short test based on the textbooks to be held on Tuesday 1 March. This is worth 10% of the final grade.

Students are encouraged to type their papers and use the Harvard system of references, i.e. in text notes e.g. (Hexham, *Zulu Religion*, 1987, p.6) then subsequent references (Hexham, 1987:71). Also, remember to add a full bibliography. Late papers are accepted but will automatically be deducted 10%. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to set the test on a different date without a doctor's note.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE AND CORE COMPETENCIES:

At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- appreciate the complexity of religion
- understand the importance of theory in interpreting religion
- to develop a critical appreciation of religious and anti-religious arguments
- develop an overview of their own field

### **Grading**

A letter grade will be assigned to each requirement according to the “Undergraduate Grading System” which appears on page 43 of the 2004-05 University Calendar.

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:**

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.

### **Gnosis:**

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