

**The University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Humanities**  
Department of Religious Studies

**Religious Studies 577 L01: Senior Project Seminar**

**Winter 2010**  
T 9:30 – 12:20  
SS 1332

**Instructor**

Dr. Tinu Ruparell

**Office**

SS1320

**Office Hours**

W 12:00-13:00 or by appointment

**Telephone**

403 220 7069

**Email**

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**Course Description:**

This capstone course is based on an independent research project prepared by each student individually and in groups, assisted by an on-going consultation with the instructor. The model for the course will try to emulate some of the challenges faced by graduates from Religious Studies when negotiating and deploying their expertise in wider society. The aim of the course is two-fold: firstly it allows senior-level Religious Studies students an opportunity to research and write a paper/presentation on a topic relevant to the contested space of religion in Canadian society; secondly it allows students some experience of collaborative project work where their ideas are subjected to group critique and suggestions for revision.

The topics for the research project will fall broadly in the area of the nature of religion *per se*. In this respect the course will bookend courses in theory and method in the study of religion initiated earlier in the undergraduate programme. However, given the expertise students have gained through study of particular religious traditions, the topics can be specialised to pertain to these communities.

**Core Competencies:**

This is an upper-level seminar designed to integrate much of the material and expertise gained through the degree. While there will be opportunities for interaction in seminar settings, as with most research projects, much of the process of research will be self-directed or done in collaboration with groups. There will be opportunity for review and critique as well as revision and rebuttal. Skills to be acquired include: library research, organisation and vetting of sources, critical analysis and evaluation of arguments and presuppositions, presentation of research, effective writing and scholarly conventions, responding to criticism and challenges and revision in light of review.

**Assessment:**

There are three components to the grade for this course:

Date Due	Course Element	Weight
23 Feb 2010	Initial environmental scan – up to 1.5k words – presentations in class	25%
30 Mar 2010	Submission of policy/proposal paper – up to 3k words	45%
6/13 Apr 2010	Final presentation ‘Dragon’s Den pitch’	30%

*\*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.*

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content. Presentations will be graded w.r.t. form and creativity as well as content.

**POLICY REGARDING MISSED/LATE ASSESSMENTS**

**Due dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’.**

**This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.**

**Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.**

**LATE SUBMISSION OF ANY GRADED ELEMENT FOR THE COURSE WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. MISSING YOUR PITCH DATE WILL RESULT IN AN F FOR THAT PART OF THE GRADE**

**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:

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%

**Syllabus:**

A detailed syllabus will be provided in 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 University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.*

**Recording of lectures:**

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

**Academic Accommodation:**

If you are a student with a disability who requires 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. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

**Safewalk Program :**

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 403-220-5333 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!

**Withdrawing from courses:**

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

**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>.