



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2022
RELS 701.20 – STUDIES IN WESTERN RELIGIONS:
BEING HUMAN IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 701.20

COURSE NAME: Studies in Western Religions: Being Human in the Middle Ages

PRE-REQUISITES: Three units from RELS 383, RELS 385, RELS 387, or RELS 389

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Social Sciences Building (SS), Room 527

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00–12:15 (normally, classes are in person)

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND UCALGARY EMAIL: George Ferzoco, george.ferzoco@ucalgary.ca

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: The instructor will only be opening e-mails sent from a @ucalgary.ca address; e-mails sent from other domains (e.g., gmail.com) will be deleted unopened. The instructor will respond on Mondays to Fridays to e-mails sent on Mondays to Fridays. Response will normally be within 2 business days of receipt; if you have not received a response within that timeframe, please send a (gentle) reminder. This correspondence is of a business nature, so you are expected to write by starting with 'Dear' then name (e.g., 'Dear George'); do not begin with 'Hey' or 'Yo'. Enquiries related to assignments must be sent not less than 24 hours before a deadline.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

A seminar course examining topics, personalities, and movements in Christianity from its origins to its modern and contemporary developments. This course may be repeated for credit. Course hours: H (3-0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course examines medieval religious texts and images that artfully relayed powerful emotions of love and hate in relation to Christian belief and practice. Focus will be placed on late medieval Italy. The texts and images explored facilitate an understanding of a religious perspective that may appear strange on first viewing but pulsate with humanity, capturing its attractiveness and repulsiveness.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completing this course students will have:

- acquired experience and knowledge of reading medieval texts (in English translation from Latin and Italian vernacular sources) in a variety of genres (hagiography, poetry, prayer, visual arts, narrative, treatises, letters, visionary literature, autobiography)
- encountered different levels of medieval culture, from rural and popular to urban and learned, from the vantage point of male and female creators and subjects
- improved academic skills through written assignments, presentations, and class discussion of how to reflect upon, present, analyse and evaluate complex ideas and arguments.

LEARNING RESOURCES

REQUIRED: Provided by instructor via D2L and via publicly accessible materials. These can include excerpts from texts and images by and about, e.g.,

Francis of Assisi

Peter of the Morrone (Pope Celestine V)

Dante Alighieri

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch)

Catherine of Siena

(and an August 2022 text by Pope Francis as well)

Art from Ravenna and Massa Marittima, and artists such as Cimabue, Giotto, Duccio, Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Masaccio, Botticelli

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

The D2L site for this course will contain required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca). Some classes may be devoted to screenings of videos.

For any eventual online portion of this course, in order to successfully engage in your learning experience, you are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- a computer with a supported operating system as well as the latest security and malware updates
- a current and updated web browser and Zoom application
- a webcam
- a microphone and speaker or a headset with microphone
- a current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
- broadband internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS – main dates [subject to change]

6 September – first class

15 September – last day to drop without financial penalty; end of refund period

16 September – last day to add or swap a course

23 September – tuition fee payment deadline

27 September – Small-group in-class presentation on Francis of Assisi or Peter of the Morrone or medieval art, with submission before midnight of two-page (max.) outline of the presentation (worth 25% of final grade)

25 October – Essay (1500 words) on Dante (worth 30% of final grade)

6–12 November – term break (no classes)

22 November – Essay (1500 words) on Petrarch (worth 30% of final grade)

6 December – Essay (750 words) on Catherine of Siena (worth 15% of final grade)

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work in order to increase their grade.

MISSED CLASSES AND MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Students who have joined the course after it started, or who have missed class due to illness or other reasons, must consult other students (e.g., via group chat) in regard to what was missed.

If a student misses a submission, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, note from counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not ordinarily be provided an opportunity to make up the assigned task and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

GRADING

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2022-2023, as per <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>:

F.1.2 Graduate Studies Grading System

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass
C+	2.30	All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.

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

A student's 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 research papers must be properly documented. 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.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically via Dropbox on our D2L site. Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date.

Assignments MUST be submitted in Word format, and be double-spaced with a standard 12-point font. Pages MUST be numbered.

Assignments must have a file name as follows:

Course Code - Surname, Given Name - student number - essay #.docx

e.g.: RELS 601.12 - Smith, Kim - 12345678 - essay 2.docx

Your assignments should have a cover page, footnotes (not endnotes), and a bibliography that is on a separate page following the body of your work.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

(In regard to word counts: what exactly is a 'word'? Good question! For the purposes of our essays, a word is one that is found in the body of your essay. Anything else – e.g., title, your name, footnotes, bibliography – is not a word.)

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are 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> In general, please be courteous toward other students in the course, and to the instructor. Be respectful of people's feelings, and of classroom facilities (e.g., do not put feet up on chairs or desks), or unduly take up desk space.

For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class.

Be considerate of the shared learning environment. Avoid distracting behavior and activities. Focus on objective inquiry. While critical evaluation is permitted in this course, students are encouraged to steer enquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Students who flagrantly or repeatedly abuse these any of these guidelines of conduct (including in reference to what follows below) will be asked to leave the class; the Security Office will be called if the instructor deems it to be necessary.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

Be aware that if you care about your marks, you will not use your notebook computer to take notes in class, as studies consistently demonstrate that students who use pen/pencil and paper in class outperform those who use electronic devices. Under no circumstances must anyone use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. No video or audio recording is permitted. Students who distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulation E.6: "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, "Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion."

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community. It seems unlikely the course will have Zoom sessions, but it is possible.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g., [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

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 ACCOMMODATION

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:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>

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>.

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