

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2018

Course	Religious Studies 705
Time	W 14:00-16:50
Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office Hours	W 13:00-14:00 or by appointment
Office	SS530
E-mail	ruparell@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	4032207069

Required Text(s):

Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

Soren Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*

Jean-Paul Sartre: *Being and Nothingness*

All of these texts are available as downloads on the D2L site. You are of course free to order paper copies of these texts for yourselves. The Hollingdale translation of Nietzsche, the Hannay translation of Kierkegaard, and the Barnes translation of Sartre are useful.

Optional Text(s):

Some additional required readings may be assigned and will be made available either through the D2L site or in class.

Course Description:

Modern religions owe much to the thought of, and reaction to, such thinkers as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre and (time permitting) Tillich. This course will consider themes arising from the work of these thinkers towards an understanding of what human authenticity might mean in the context of religion. The central tenets of existentialism will be developed and problematised in response to reading these authors

Core Competencies:

Dedicated students in this course will learn both the ambiguous nature of existentialism as well as the challenge it continues to pose to religion. As this is a course in recent religious thought, every attempt will be made to ascertain how existentialism in philosophy, literature, art, film and theatre have impacted the nature of religion. Committed students will gain in their abilities of analysis, verbal and written communication and critical self-reflection in the context of the study of religion.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
TBA	In-class presentations	40%
Written essays due in hard copy in the dept office by noon on Nov 23 2018	Final research essay (5-6 thousand words)	40%
Oral defense to take place between Dec 4-5, 2018, schedule TBA	Oral Defense (30 minutes)	20%

Note on Oral Defense:

The oral examination is meant to be an opportunity for the student to discuss further and thereby strengthen their research essay. It is a way by which feedback on the essay can become a springboard for further analysis and discussion. Questions will be based on the student's submitted essay, though, of course, some understanding of the authors and issues covered in class and through the assigned readings will be assumed. The aim of the oral is for students to support the essay and verbal performance in the oral will not be assessed.

Note on in-class presentations:

As this is a seminar course, students will be expected to have read the assigned readings prior to class and be ready to discuss them thoroughly. Students are expected to be able to read, analyse and comment on the assigned readings and present their thoughts to the class for discussion. The goal is for us to read the material together rather than for me to simply lecture on the texts. To facilitate this each student will be required to present a number of short analyses to the class. More information will be provided on the format of these analyses on the first day of class.

Grading

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2018-2019:

A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw

		regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

In-class presentation 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'. If there is an issue with your assigned date for the presentation, please see me as soon as possible.

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 FINAL PAPERS WILL BE PENALISED 5%/DAY. Missing the oral examination without acceptable cause (as above) will result in a 15% penalty on the essay as well as an F on the oral exam component. Missing the presentation will result in an F in that component of the final grade.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This course will require students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and, presentations and exercises will inform the grade for your paper/presentation and other assessments. You will be expected to have read the material for the course and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions. I do not make my notes available on-line or in other form, so if you cannot avoid missing a class, please ask a fellow student for notes which you have missed. Lectures will assume knowledge of the assigned texts and will be analytic in nature.

Electronic Device Policy:

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. While respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed in this course, you are **strongly encouraged not to use them** at all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they

will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. **Texting is not permitted in class** and you may leave the room to text in emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities deemed by the instructor not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices

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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/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.

Graduate Student Association Ombudsperson

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 www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

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 hrs/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/>