



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 609 & 709

COURSE NAME: Theories of Religion

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Web Based Section

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Wednesdays 2-4:45pm via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:

Dr. Elizabeth Rohlman

elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursdays 10:30-12 via Zoom or in my office (SS550)—check D2L each week for details, as the availability of in person office hours may change in response to the COVID numbers in Calgary.

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Students should email the instructor and from their ucalgary email accounts.

Students can expect email replies on week days within 72 hours of receipt of the initial email. Email replies may come from either the instructor or the teaching assistant.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

A critical examination of various theories used in the academic study of religion.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an upper-level survey of the historical development of theories of religion. Special attention will be paid to social-scientific theories of religion. We will consider the theories in and of themselves, and will also practice applying the theories in analysis of religious traditions, texts, and practices

For online courses:

This course will meet on Zoom synchronously. Class meetings will not be recorded. Should students be unable to attend class, they should contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.

***COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will have an in-depth knowledge of the historical development of theories of religion and relevant critiques of these theories, and will have some practice applying these theories to the analysis of religious traditions, texts, and practices.

*LEARNING RESOURCES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Ivan Strenski, *Understanding Theories of Religion: An Introduction*. Wiley, 2015.
2. Ivan Strenski, ed., *Thinking about Religion: A Reader*. Blackwell, 2008.
3. Richard King, ed., *Religion, Theory, Critique: Classical and Contemporary Approaches and Methodologies*. Columbia University Press, 2017

*LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

CLASS SCHEDULE

A syllabus with a schedule of classes will be distributed on the first day of class.

*EXAMINATIONS

There is no registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

*ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. **Participation (20%)**: Regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are essential to a successful seminar. Participation grades will be determined by the quality of each student's daily preparedness and contributions to regular class discussions.
2. **Presentations (15% x 3)**: Each student will sign up for three classes to give oral presentations on the week's readings and lead discussion. Students may work individually or with a partner on their presentations. Guidelines on expectations for presentations will be distributed in class.
3. **Final Paper (35%)**: Students will submit a research paper on a topic of their choice (related to the course content, of course). Further details on the requirements for the final paper will be distributed and discussed in class. The research paper is a project in which students will engage throughout the semester. To this end, students will be asked to submit a term-paper research proposal on Monday, February 28 *and* to schedule an appointment to discuss their research proposal with the instructor during the week of February 28-March 4. Failure to submit the research proposal or schedule an appointment with the instructor will result in a 15-point reduction in the student's final paper grade. The final paper is due April 18 by 11:59 PM and should be submitted to the D2L drop box.

NB: The required length of the paper differs for students enrolled in 609 vs. 709:

- Students enrolled in RELS 609 will submit a paper of 15-20 pages in length.
- Students enrolled in RELS 709 will submit a paper of 20-25 pages in length.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Varying	Class Presentations (3)	15% x 3 (45% total)	No
Ongoing	Participation	20%	No
April 18	Final Paper	35%	No

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS*

As per the University Calendar, students must contact the instructor within 48 hours of a missed assignment. It is always preferable to make arrangements for extensions or missed assignments in advance, however.

***GRADING**

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

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University's Graduate Studies Calendar 2019-2020:

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	

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) 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>

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 www.ucalgary.ca/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>.

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

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>