

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 346 L01: CHAOS, DEMONS, AND MONSTERS**  
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2019

|                   |                                      |               |                                                                                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course</b>     | Chaos, Demons, and Monsters          |               |                                                                                              |
| <b>Time</b>       | Monday/Wednesday/Friday 2:00-2:50 PM |               |                                                                                              |
| <b>Room</b>       | EEEL 161                             |               |                                                                                              |
| <b>Instructor</b> | <b>Office Hours*</b>                 | <b>Office</b> | <b>Contact Information</b>                                                                   |
| Dr. Joy Palacios  | Mon. and Wed., 3:00-4:00 PM          | SS 534        | E: <a href="mailto:joy.palacios@ucalgary.ca">joy.palacios@ucalgary.ca</a><br>T: 403-220-3285 |

\* Office hours on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> will be canceled. My Monday office hours will be extended those weeks

**Required Text(s):**

Alighieri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri: Inferno*. Edited and translated by Robert M. Durling. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

ISBN: 0-19-508740-2

- This book will be available in the university bookstore and is also available as an-book on the university's library website ([https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01UCALG\\_ALMA51646829690004336&context=L&vid=UCAL-GARY&search\\_scope=EVERYTHING&isFrbr=true&tab=everything&lang=en\\_US](https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01UCALG_ALMA51646829690004336&context=L&vid=UCAL-GARY&search_scope=EVERYTHING&isFrbr=true&tab=everything&lang=en_US))

*The other readings are either available online or will be posted to D2L as PDFs.*

**Course Description:**

Religious myths, beliefs, and practices serve not only to bring order to social life and to forge communities but also to provide stories, symbols, and images that enable humans to confront the painful, the terrifying, the grotesque, the other, the inhuman, the unthinkable, and the unmanageable aspects of human existence. This course will examine the problems of evil and human suffering as represented in the myths, scriptures, and literatures of a selection of religious traditions. During the first half of the semester, we will read creation myths to examine the way religious stories about the world's origins present goodness, order, divinity, and perfection as intimately linked to evil, chaos, abjection, and destruction in a dualistic tension. We will draw on theories of myth and of the monstrous to analyze the interplay between the transcendent and the immanent in these stories. During the second half of the semester we will trace the development of ideas and practices related to demons and Satan in the Abrahamic tradition so as to consider the social and political functions that religious representations of evil can serve. As we will see, demons and devils play many roles, serving, for example, as mechanisms for explaining suffering, as symbols of a culture's changing sex and gender norms, and as markers of difference, and as forms of political commentary.

**Core Competencies:**

*Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:*

**Knowledge:**

- Identify, compare, and contrast creation myths from a range of religious traditions
- Explain and apply theories of myth and the monstrous as they have developed in religious studies
- Recount and analyze the development of ideas of Satan, the devil and demons in the Abrahamic tradition

**Skills:**

- Read and analyze primary texts from a range of religious traditions
- Develop arguments about those primary texts using theoretical approaches from religious studies
- Collaborate with a team of fellow students to gather resources (images, texts, sounds, videos) related to a primary source and structure an argument about how those materials help us better understand the primary source
- Lead a group discussion as part of a team

**Course Requirements:**

This course will entail the following assignments/assessments:

*Detailed handouts for each assignment will be provided in class.*

1. Group Discussion = 10%

Students will work together in teams of four or five to prepare for and lead a class discussion of 15-20 minutes on one of our primary texts (a creation myth, a scriptural passage, etc.). Students will select their teams and sign up for a discussion date in the second week of the semester.

2. Exams = 90%

- Exam #1 (35%)
- Exam #2 (20%)
- Exam #3 (35%)

Students will take three non-cumulative exams. Exam #1 will cover the creation myths and theoretical frameworks studied in weeks one through six of the semester. Exam #2 will cover the material studied during weeks 8-10 of the semester. Exam #3 will cover the material studied during weeks 11-14 of the semester. More information about the content and form of the exams will be given in class. They will likely consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and essays.

### Summary of dates and weights:

| Date                                                             | Assessment    | Weight (%) | Required pass/fail |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| 23 January – 10 April<br>(exact date to be selected by students) | Group Discuss | 10%        |                    |
| 15 February 2019                                                 | Exam #1       | 35%        |                    |
| 15 March 2019                                                    | Exam #2       | 20%        |                    |
| <i>To be scheduled by Registrar</i>                              | Exam #3       | 35%        |                    |

### 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, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

|    |          |   |         |    |          |
|----|----------|---|---------|----|----------|
| A+ | 100 - 96 | A | 95 - 90 | A- | 89 - 85  |
| B+ | 84 - 80  | B | 79 - 75 | B- | 74 - 70  |
| C+ | 69 - 65  | C | 64 - 60 | C- | 59 - 55  |
| D+ | 54 - 53  | D | 52-50   | F  | Under 50 |

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

### Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

In accordance with university policy, deferred examinations are permitted only in exceptional circumstances. For further details see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Unless exceptional circumstances prevent you from submitting an assignment on time or a prior agreement has been made with me, late work will be marked down by one third of a grade per day (from an A to A-). Requests for extensions should be accompanied by supporting documentation, as per the Supporting Documentation and use of a Statutory Declaration regulation stated at the end of this course outline. Also see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

The reading quizzes cannot be rescheduled. The option to drop the lowest grade is designed to serve as an accommodation for students who miss one of the quizzes.

### Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Your active participation is important for your own learning as well as the learning of your peers. I will do my best to structure in-class time in ways that foster and facilitate your engagement with the course materials. Readings assigned for a given date on the schedule should be completed before class begins. Often, I will begin class with a brief lecture highlighting what I think is important in the readings. Whenever possible, I will design interactive activities that will prompt you

to explain, analyze, compare, or apply the ideas and information covered in the readings. Please come to class ready to think and share.

During class discussions and activities, I expect each member of the course to help me create a positive learning environment by listening respectfully to each other, using transitions (“As Julia said, I think...”, “I agree/disagree with Mohad because...”, “I want to build on that idea...”), and by refraining from statements that signal judgment. We will be discussing material that can be sensitive and about which members of the course may have strong feelings. For this reason, all members of the class will be asked to use vocabulary that signals observation, description, analysis, scholarly argument, and hypothesis formation.

### **Electronic Device Policy:**

Electronic devices are allowed in this course and will sometimes be used for in-class activities. (I, too, after all, will have my laptop with me to provide PowerPoint presentations and my phone so I can use its timer to keep our activities on track.) I do, however, expect that all members of the class show respect to their fellow students and the instructor(s) by not wearing headphones, answering phone calls, playing music, or watching their own videos. If a student’s use of electronic devices disrupts others, he/she may be asked to leave the room.

Recording any part of the lectures or class sessions in any form must first be approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only.

### **Syllabus:**

A schedule of readings will be distributed on the first day of class and posted to D2L.

### **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/](http://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](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.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library.

**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.

**Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative:**

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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

**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](http://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/>.

**Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.