

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 200.02 – Origin and Nature of Religious Worldviews
<b>Time</b>	Electronic Online Course – <i>All</i> course information and assessments to be accessed or completed in University of Calgary's Desire2Learn course management system
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. David A. Bergen, SS540, 220-7063, <a href="mailto:dabergen@ucalgary.ca">dabergen@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Required Textbook</b>	<i>Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths</i> (2017 fourth edition; Eva M. Thury and Margaret K. DeVinney, eds; Oxford University Press). (Links to any relevant electronic notes, articles, video clips, blogs, etc. will also be posted in the D2L website)
<b>Office Hours</b>	Wednesday, 11:00-12:00

**Course Description**

It is a contemporary commonplace that humans are inveterate story-tellers. This course will analyze the content and structure of stories that have possessed mythological power, binding the cosmos into an ordered, purposive, and meaningful order to the satisfaction of the human being whose principal adaptation is symbolic cognition. During the course of this term, students will also encounter some important theories that scholars have used to understand mythmakers and their myths.

**Course Requirements**

**Assessments in Brief:**

*Start-Up Quiz – worth 5% of course total*

A basic start-up quiz will test the student's knowledge of the basic logistics of the course and the layout of the D2L. This quiz will also give students an opportunity to detect and rectify any computer and server problems before they begin the course proper. Unlike the six regular tests on the textbook, students will be given multiple attempts to complete the quiz, making it theoretically possible to achieve a 100% score in the start-up quiz. (NOTE: The start-up quiz will be available starting Sept 12th to midnight Sept 27.)

*Six Online Tests worth 95% of course total*

One test for each module, accessible over a 48-hour period on the following weeks: Sept 26-30, Oct 10-14, Oct 24-8, Nov 7-11, Nov 21-5, Dec 5-9. The online tests will assess the student's reading knowledge of the assigned textbook readings. Each test will have multiple-choice or true/false questions--all tests are equally-weighted and non-cumulative.

**Assessments in Detail:**

- In each of the six modules of this course, students will be given a 48-hour window in which to write the module test (from 12:00pm Monday to 12:00pm Wednesday). Students will be given two attempts to write each test. However, a student attempting a second writing will likely not see an identical test as in the first attempt. A second attempt can only be initiated if a student received a minimum of 50% in the first attempt.
- The highest grade achieved in either attempt will be recorded as the student's grade for that particular module.
- Time to complete each test will be set at two minutes/question. (For example, if a test has 25 questions, the time-to-completion will be 50 minutes.) If a student goes over the time limit stipulated for a test, a penalty of one mark per minute (or portion of a minute) exceeding the time limit will be imposed on the score achieved.
- Each test is set to "forced completion," which means that a student cannot save and exit the test, then come back later and pick up where s/he left off. Once the test is engaged, it must be completed to the end, regardless if it is the first attempt or the second attempt.

- Should a university-related glitch prevent the student from achieving 50% on the first attempt of a test, a second attempt will be granted, provided that the student can obtain verification from IT that the university system is responsible. If a university-related glitch should occur in the second attempt, the student may opt for a re-write exam at the end of the term (*see next paragraph for details on rewrite exams*).
- *Given that this is an online course (accessible anywhere, anytime), and, given that the group discussions and test writing take place over an extended period, no concession for missed tests or discussions will be granted, except for cases of significant illness or domestic issue (adequately described, verifiable with proper medical documentation noting the significance of the illness, to be submitted electronically within 24 hours subsequent to the test period). (Note: travel, work schedule, weddings, funerals, sore throats, vehicle repairs, children's soccer/ballet competitions, or computer/technical issues ... these and their like are not excusable.) In the event of such exceptional circumstances a rewrite exam will be scheduled (to be written in person) in the Religious Studies Department. Please note: unlike the online tests, all make-up tests will be in short-answer format with no access to external materials (textbook or notes) permitted.*

### Other Course Details

Students should remember that an online course brings added responsibilities--students must be self-motivated in their efforts and self-diligent in their attention to detail. (*There will be no remedial assignments available in this course, nor will there be any curving of individual or class grades.*)

The potential to succeed in this course is increased if students:

- *enter* in their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in D2L);
- *ensure* that their computer and internet provider are fully operational and stable. No exceptions will be made for technical glitches (e.g., server crash, browser freeze-up, battery drain, wi-fi dropout ... in short, anything between the university's system and the student's computer) other than significant outages in the University's system. *It is therefore the responsibility of the student of an online electronic course to ensure that s/he possesses (or has access to) the proper equipment and secure signal necessary to complete all components of the course.*
- *read* thoroughly the assigned pages prior to the first writing of each module test (see schedule posted in D2L, Course Information);
- *study* hard, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of textbook material;
- *write* each test early in the time-frame scheduled, to ensure adequate time to attempt a second writing if needed/desired;
- *reread* vigilantly all vital information and documents pertinent to this course: outline, syllabus, schedule, email messages, announcements, theoretical overviews, publishable paragraphs, and so on.

### 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, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

### 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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

### Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **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.

### **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>.

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

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Block.

### **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.