

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

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2016

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| Course | RELS 200 L01 – Religious Myths & Worldviews (Web-Based) |
| Time | Electronic Online Course through Desire2Learn |
| Instructor | Laura Jurgens |
| Office Hours | By Appointment |
| Office | SS 542 |
| E-mail | lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca |
| Telephone | (403) 220-2562 |

Required Text(s): Eva M. Thury and Margaret K. Devinney. *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Optional Text(s): Additional readings may be posted to Desire2Learn.

Course Description:

This course will provide students with an introduction to the study of religious myths and worldviews. This course will also present students with an opportunity to encounter different religious myths told through various traditional stories. These myths or stories have special significance as they establish a society's basic worldviews, meaning, and values. This course will approach religious myth and worldviews through examining core concepts and traditional texts.

This course will be divided into six thematic sections:

- 1). Introduction to Studying Myth (What is Myth; Ways of Understanding Myth)
- 2). Creation Myths (Greek Creation Stories; Prose Edda's Creation Stories)
- 3). Destruction Myths (Biblical Destruction Stories; the Flood; Sodom and Gomorrah)
- 4). Heroes, Tricksters and Myth (The Ramayana; Native American Tricksters)
- 5). Myth and Ritual (Isis and Osiris; Heracles and Dionysus)
- 6). Mythological Themes in Modern Narratives (Star Trek; the X-Files; Firefly)

Online elements for this course: As this course is entirely online, students will access online lecture materials, complete, and submit all tests and assignments through Desire2Learn.

Core Competencies: Committed students will become familiar with important terms and concepts associated with religion and mythology. Students will be knowledgeable of essential myths in many world religions after examining a wide range of myths and stories. Through actively engaging with required readings and lecture materials, students will be able to read and think critically about how myth and stories shapes religious worldviews.

Course Requirements:

| Date | Assessment | Weight (%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Friday, May 20 th | Test #1 | 15% |
| Friday, May 27 th | Test #2 | 15% |
| Friday, June 3 rd | Test #3 | 15% |
| Friday, June 10 th | Test #4 | 15% |
| Friday, June 17 th | Test #5 | 15% |
| Monday, June 27 th | Written Assignment | 25% |

NOTE: There is no final exam for this course.

1). Test #1-5: Tests will be posted on Desire2Learn and will be based on the lecture materials and required course readings. Tests will be timed. Students are expected to complete each test and submit it to Desire2Learn.

2). Written Assignment: Students will write a **1,000 word** assignment based on the last section of the course dealing with mythological themes in modern narratives. Students will be given the option to write their assignment based on the following three broad themes: mythological themes in modern poetry, literature, or narratives (including either novels, film or television shows). Students will need to apply terms and concepts from readings to their papers. Students are expected to use their textbook along with additional academic sources (books, journal articles, etc.) to write their assignment. A marking rubric will be provided. Student will be provided with instructions within the first few weeks of class. Students will submit their assignment to the Dropbox on Desire2Learn before midnight on June 27th, 2016.

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 Classics and Religion:

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|----|----------|---|---------|----|----------|
| 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: It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete all tests and assignments within the allotted time. If you do not complete a test within the specified time given, contact your instructor with your reasons as soon as possible. Valid excuses must be accompanied by appropriate documentation (for example: medical notes, etc.) within 48 hours. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be able to make up the missed assessment and will receive a zero as a mark. Late assignments will be deducted 5% each day that it is overdue.

Expectations for student conduct in this course: As this is a web-based course, students are expected to keep on track with lecture material and required readings each week. Students are also expected to complete all the tests and assessments within the allotted time.

Electronic Device Policy: N/A

Syllabus: A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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.

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 as-carts@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 Block.

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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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.