

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2019**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 200 – Religious Myths and Worldviews (Wed-Based)
<b>Time</b>	Electronic Online Course Through Desire2Learn
<b>Instructor</b>	Laura Jurgens
<b>Office Hours</b>	By Appointment.
<b>Office</b>	SS 502
<b>E-mail</b>	lkjurgens@ucalgary.ca
<b>Telephone</b>	220-5612

**Required Text(s):** Thury, Eva and Margaret Devinney. *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013 (the Fourth Edition).

**Course Description:** This course will provide students with an introduction to the study of religious myths and worldviews by examining original texts, interpretations, and theories. This course will also provide students with an opportunity to encounter different religious myths told through various traditional stories. These myths or stories have special significance since they establish a society's basic worldviews, meaning, and values. This course will explore religious myths and worldviews through examining core concepts and traditional texts of different religious traditions from around the world.

There is a strong focus on self-directed or independent learning throughout this course since it is a web-based course. **This course has been condensed for the Spring term and covers the same amount of material as a Fall or Winter semester course.** Students should expect it to be a full semester worth of work in a shorter amount of time.

This course will be divided into six sections:

- 1). Introduction to Studying Myth
- 2). Creation Myths
- 3). Destruction Myths
- 4). Heroes, Tricksters, and Myth
- 5). Ritual and Myth
- 6). Mythological Themes in Modern Narratives

**Online elements for this course:** Students will access online lecture materials, multi-media materials, complete, and submit 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 primary source materials. Through actively engaging with required readings and lecture materials, students will be able to read and think critically about how narratives and myths shape religious worldviews.

## Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Monday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction Test	10%	No
Monday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Critical Response: Creation	10%	No
Monday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Critical Response: Destruction	10%	No
Monday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Critical Response: Heroes and Tricksters	10%	No
Monday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Critical Response: Rituals	10%	No
Monday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Critical Response: Modern Narratives	10%	No
Monday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Take Home Final Test	40%	No

**Note:** There will be **NO** registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

## 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 regards to both form and content.

**Policy with regards 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 as soon as possible. Valid excuses must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation, as per the Supporting Documentation and use of a Statutory Declaration regulation. If documentation is not provided, 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 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue.

**Extra Assignments:** There are no extra assignments for this course as they are unfair to other students in the course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

**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. There will be a strong focus on independent and self-directed learning. Students will be expected to carefully and diligently complete their required readings. Students are also expected to complete all the assessments within the allotted time. With regards to e-mail, please be courteous. Inquiries related to a test must be sent no less than 24 hours before the day of the test. Please do not send e-mail inquiries related to dates and deadlines.

**Electronic Device Policy:** N/A.

## **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/](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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> 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 Block.

## **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): [https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_and\\_protection\\_of\\_privacy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.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/m-1.html>.