

**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE
Spring 2021**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 200

COURSE NAME: Religious Myths and Worldviews

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Electronic Course Through Desire2Learn

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Asynchronous Delivery

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Jurgens

EMAIL: lkjorgen@ucalgary.ca

PHONE: (403) 220-5612 (Campus Office)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT POLICY: Please use email as the primary contact method. Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. Please be courteous and give me time to respond before sending multiple emails. Inquiries related to an assessment must be sent no less than 24 hours before the deadline. I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please make an appointment with me over email.

OFFICE HOURS: Individual online meetings by appointment, so that I can schedule meetings based on the needs and schedules of students. Please email me to set up a time to chat.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSITANTS:

Cassandra Eveleigh (cassandra.eveleigh@ucalgary.ca)

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT: Readings (in English translation) from the classical literatures of middle Eastern and Asian religions. Introduction to the evolving mythological traditions from three geo-cultural centres (the middle East, India, and China) by examining religious themes: cosmology; existential values and goals; destinies of humans, the world, and the cosmos.

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.

This course has been **condensed** for the Spring term and covers the **same amount** of material as a Fall or Winter semester course. Therefore, students should expect it to be a **full semester worth of work in a shorter amount of time.**

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L). This course will occur asynchronously. This means that there are no “real-time” or “live” lectures. Rather, students will complete the material for each module on their own time (example: complete the readings, watch videos, listen to lectures, etc.).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 course materials, students will be able to read and think critically about how narratives and myths shape religious worldviews.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbook:

David Leeming. *A World of Myth: An Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Please Note: The textbook is required for this course. It is free and available online through the University of Calgary library: https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780199762729

Additional free, online readings (like academic articles or sections of eBooks) may be listed on Desire2Learn. These readings will be available through the University of Calgary library.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a Desire2Learn site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca). Students will complete all tests and submit all assignments through Desire2Learn. There is no “live” or synchronous component to this class. In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking an online course, like this one, are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system
- A current and updated web browser
- Broadband (strong) internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE

Schedule	Topics	Readings
Week One May 5 - May 12	Module One: Myths and Worldviews	David Leeming, <i>the World of Myth: An Anthology</i> , Dimensions of Myth (Pages 1-8) Note: Please see our course D2L for the most up-to-date schedule for each module (including links for readings, lectures, and videos).
Weeks Two and Three May 12 - May 26 Deadline for Assignment: May 21 Submit to Dropbox on D2L	Module Two: Creation Myths (Myths from Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Hebrew, Indian, Greek, Hopi, and Mayan cultures)	David Leeming, <i>the World of Myth: An Anthology</i> , Creation (Pages 15-16); Egyptian: The Beginnings (Pages 17-18); Mesopotamian: Enuma Elish (Pages 18-23); Hebrew: Genesis (Pages 24-29); Indian: Rig Veda and the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad (Pages 29-31); Greek: Hesiod's Theogony (Pages 32-35); Hopi: Spider Woman (Pages 36-39); Mayan: Popol Vuh (Pages 60-62)
Quiz #1 (Available on Wednesday, May 26 at 1:00 p.m. to Thursday, May 27 at 1:00 p.m. MDT)		
Week Four May 26 - June 2	Module Three: Destruction Myths (Myths from Mesopotamian, Hebrew, Chinese, Indian, and Greco-Roman cultures)	David Leeming, <i>the World of Myth: An Anthology</i> , Flood (Pages 43-44); Mesopotamian: Utnapishtim / Gilgamesh (Pages 44-47); Hebrew: Noah / Genesis (Pages 47-53); Chinese: Yü (Pages 53-55); Indian: Manu (Page 55); Greco-Roman: Deucalion and Pyrrha / Ovid's Metamorphoses (Pages 56-60)

Quiz #2

(Available on Wednesday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m. to Thursday, June 3 at 1:00 p.m. MDT)

Week Five June 2 - June 9	Module Four: Afterlife and Apocalyptic Worldviews (Myths from Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hopi, Indian, and Norse cultures)	David Leeming, <i>the World of Myth: An Anthology</i> , Afterlife (Pages 64-65); Egyptian: Osiris (Pages 65-67); Greco-Roman: Land of the Dead (Pages 67-68); Judeo-Christian: Hell, Purgatory, Heaven (Page 68); Muslim: Hell and Heaven in the Koran (Pages 68-69); Buddhist: the Pure Land (Pages 69-72); Hopi: The Kachinas (Pages 72-75); Indian: End of the Kali Age (Pages 81-84); Norse: <i>Ragnarök</i> (Pages 85-88)
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Quiz #3

(Available on Wednesday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m. to Thursday, June 10 at 1:00 p.m. MDT)

Week Six June 9 - June 17	Module Five: Myths, Gods, and Goddesses (Myths from Indian, Mesopotamian, Greco-Roman, Persian, Japanese, and Indian cultures)	David Leeming, <i>the World of Myth: An Anthology</i> , God as Archetype (Pages 123-124); The Supreme Being (Page 124); Indian: Krishna-Vishnu-Brahman (Pages 125-129); The Great Mother (Pages 134-136); Mesopotamian: Inanna-Ishtar (Pages 136-145); Greco-Roman: Prometheus (Pages 175-177); Persian: Mithras (Pages 197-199); Japanese: Amaterasu and Susanowo (Pages 199-202); Indian: Indra and the Parade of Arts (Pages 207-212)
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Quiz #4

(Available on Wednesday, June 16 at 1:00 p.m. to Thursday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m. MDT)

EXAMINATIONS

There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through Desire2Learn. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. More information and specific instructions will be sent out and made available on Desire2Learn.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Friday, May 21	Assignment	30%
Wednesday, May 26 Wednesday, June 2 Wednesday, June 9 Wednesday, June 16	Quizzes x 4 (4 x 10% = 40%)	40%
Registrar Scheduled (June 21 to June 23)	Final Exam	30%

Assessment Descriptions:

Quizzes (40%): After each core module (Two, Three, Four, and Five), there will be a short quiz. Quizzes are not cumulative. The quizzes will be available on Desire2Learn for 24 hours on the date assigned for each quiz. Students are expected to take the quizzes within that period. Each quiz will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the quiz in one sitting and within a specified time limit. Students are expected to complete these quizzes independently and students are not allowed to work with others or have others write their quizzes for them as this would count as academic misconduct.

Assignment (30%): Students will complete an assignment based on the information from Module Two (Creation Myths). Students will create a collage of relevant images based on the creation myths that we have explored in this course. Along with the collage, there will be a written component to the assignment. Students will be expected to bring in specific examples from course content into their written section. Detailed instructions will be made available.

Final Exam (30%): There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through Desire2Learn. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. More information and specific instructions will be sent out and made available on Desire2Learn.

Reviewing Tests: After completing the online tests for this course, student will only be able to see their final score. Individual test answers are not displayed to students. For students who are

interested in seeing individual test answers, please email the instructor to set up an online appointment. At the end of term, after all the tests are completed, you can review your test answers.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra tests or assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or re-take tests to increase their grade.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete all assessments within the allotted time. If you do not complete an assessment within the specified time given, contact your instructor as soon as possible. If a student is unable to complete a test due to technical issues (interruption of Internet service or computer, server malfunction, etc.), the student must notify the instructor within 24 hours via email. It is important for students to ensure that they have access to dependable Internet and power sources. For example, if your battery dies, it will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience technical issues, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In the meantime, document your technical issues with a screenshot to show the instructor.

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

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate tests and assignments. It is not necessary to pass each test or assignment separately in order to pass the course. In other words, there are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your final grade. The weighting for the module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests. See the University's undergraduate grading system: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

There is an expectation that all writing is your own. This means that you do not directly copy material from other sources or another person. This also means that you do not paraphrase (re-write) someone else's work in your own words without also citing (providing a citation, like a footnote) to show where you found the information. This is very important as plagiarism is not

tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your work must be your own 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.

All writing (including any writing on tests or exams) will be assessed on both form and content. This means that writing skills are important in this course. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. 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 ACCOMODATION

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/.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

COURSE EVALUATION AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

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>.

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>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wellness and Mental Health Resources: The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre: The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office: The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca
Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Student Union (SU) Information: The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>