FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Spring 2023

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 200

COURSE NAME: Religious Myths and Worldviews

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Electronic Course Through D2L/Brightspace

CLASS DAYS & TIME: Asynchronous Delivery

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:

Dr. Jurgens

lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Please use email as the primary contact method and all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email.

Please note that I will not respond to emails after regular business hours. I also cannot guarantee that I will check and/or respond to emails over weekends, so please make sure to email me well in advance, if there is an assessment due early in the week. If you have questions about an assessment (tests, assignments, etc.), please make sure to email me at least 24 hours before the deadline.

I am happy to talk with students about any aspect of the course, so please send me an email or make an appointment with me over email to chat via Zoom.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

TBA

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 will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L/Brightspace). 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, listen to lectures, etc.). Students will have access to audio lectures recorded by the instructor for each unit. Although I will regularly provide reminders, students are expected to keep themselves on track with completing required content for each module. There is also an expectation that students will reach out to the instructor if they have questions about the course content. Even though this course is taught asynchronously, we are available to help you with the course content throughout the semester, so please reach out to me or our TA.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, committed students should be able to…

1. Understand the importance of adequately paraphrasing information and properly citing sources in an academic context.
2. Articulate their knowledge of religious myths and worldviews (from a variety of world religions) from an academic perspective.
3. Identify and comprehend key theories, concepts, figures, ideas, etc. as they relate to religious myths and worldviews.
4. Evaluate appropriate scholarly sources.
5. Engage with various academic sources (both primary and secondary).
6. Analyze how sacred narratives and myths shape religious worldviews from around the world.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbook:

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

This textbook is available online, for free, through the U of C library: https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1p0s7n7/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780199762729

Additional online readings will be posted on D2L/Brightspace.

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 assessments through D2L. 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

Please Note: This is a provisional schedule. Please see our course shell on D2L/Brightspace for the most up-to-date schedule for each Unit (including links for readings, lectures, etc.), and please make sure to follow the schedule that is posted on D2L/Brightspace.

Schedule	Topics	Readings
May 3	First Day of Classes	
May 3 – May 5	Unit One: Understanding Mythology	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, Dimensions of Myth (Pages 1-8)
May 5 – May 15 Complete Student Code of Conduct (Academic Misconduct) Quiz prior to submitting Assignment 1	Unit Two: Creation (Myths from Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Hebrew, Indian, Greek, Hopi, and Mayan cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, 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)
May 15 – May 24 May 19 Assignment 1 Due	Unit Three: Destruction (Myths from Mesopotamian, Hebrew, Chinese, Indian, and Greco-Roman cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, 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)

May 23	Midterm	
May 24 – May 29	Unit Four: Afterlife and Apocalyptic Worldviews (Myths from Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hopi, Indian, and Norse cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, 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: *Ragnarök* (Pages 85-88)
May 29 – June 5	Unit Five: Gods and Goddesses (Myths from Indian, Mesopotamian, Greco-Roman, Persian, Japanese, and Indian cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, 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); Pandora (Page 177-178); Persian: Mithras (Pages 197-199); Japanese: Amaterasu and Susanowo (Pages 199-202); Indian: Indra and the Parade of Arts (Pages 207-212)

June 5 – June 13 June 12 Assignment 2 Due	Unit Six: The Hero's Journey (Myths from Native American, Greek, Indian, Celtic, African, Mesopotamian, and Christian cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, Heroes (Pages 217-221); Native American (Tewa): Water Jar Boy (Pages 221-224); Greek: Herakles (Pages 228-229); Indian: The Buddha (Pages 230-233); Greek: Oedipus (Pages 237-238); Celtic: King Arthur (Pages 243-244); Indian: the Buddha (Pages 262-267); African: Wanjiru (Pages 281-283); Mesopotamian: Gilgamesh (Pages 288-292); Christian: Jesus (Pages 304-307); Greek: Herakles (Page 307)
June 13 – June 15	Unit Seven: Tricksters (Myths from Greek, Indian, Native American, and African cultures)	David Leeming, *the World of Myth: An Anthology*, Tricksters (Page 163); Greek: Hermes (Pages 163-165); Indian: Krishna (Pages 165-169); African: Legba (Pages 171-172); Shoshoni: Old Coyote (Pages 169-171)
June 15	Last Day of Class	

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Final Exam – 2hours (registrar scheduled)
(Exam Period: June 19 – 21)

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EXAMINATIONS

There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through D2L/Brightspace. The exam will be open book meaning that you can use course content (lecture notes, textbook, etc.), but are prohibited from using outside resources (like sources from the Internet) unless otherwise noted. The exam must be completed independently. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. More information and specific instructions will be sent out and made available on D2L/Brightspace as the date gets closer.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Must be completed prior to submitting Assignment 1	Student Code of Conduct (Academic Misconduct) Quiz	1%
Friday, May 19	Assignment 1	30%
Tuesday, May 23	Midterm	14%
Monday, June 12	Assignment 2	30%
Registrar Scheduled (June 19 – June 21)	Final Exam	25%

Assessment Descriptions:

Student Code of Conduct (Academic Misconduct) Quiz (1%): As this is a first-year course, students will complete a short quiz on D2L/Brightspace to help them better understand what counts as academic misconduct, especially plagiarism. This will not only be beneficial to students as they complete the written components of this course, but also for the rest of their academic programs. The quiz will be composed of multiple choice and true or false style questions. Students will be provided with informative feedback on each of the answers to help them better understand what constitutes as academic misconduct so that they can avoid it. This quiz must be completed before a student is permitted to submit their assignments. More information will be provided on D2L/Brightspace. *Aligned to Course Learning Outcomes: 1.*

Assignments 1 and 2 (60%): Students will complete two written assignments in this course. Students will be expected to bring in specific examples from course content and external sources to show where they have found their information, where they have included internal and external content / engaged with their sources, and to show what evidence they are using to support their writing. Students are expected to include in-text citations throughout their assignments following the Chicago Manual of Style (specifically, footnotes and a bibliography). Detailed instructions will be made available on D2L/Brightspace. *Aligned to Course Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.*

Midterm (14%): The midterm will be available on D2L/Brightspace between Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 a.m. to Wednesday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m. (MDT). Students are expected to complete the midterm within this timeframe. Once started, the midterm must be completed. You cannot open the test and return to it. The midterm will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the midterm in one sitting and within a specified time limit. Students are expected to complete the midterm independently and students are not allowed to work with others or have others complete their midterm for them as this would count as academic misconduct and will be reported immediately. More instructions for the midterm will be made available. *Aligned to Course Learning Outcomes: 3.*

Final Exam (25%): There will be a final exam for this course, completed by distance, through D2L/Brightspace. The exam will be cumulative, including content from the entire course. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. Students must write the final exam at the time and date that is provided by the Registrar, unless they receive an exam deferral. More information and specific instructions will be made available. *Aligned to Course Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 6.*

Important Items to Note:

Plagiarism: As with any written work, including on assignments, midterms, and final exams, plagiarism will not be tolerated, and **any instances (intentional or unintentional) of plagiarism will be immediately reported** to the Associate Dean of Arts. There are serious consequences for plagiarizing. For example, in the past, reported students have faced consequences that have included: mandatory workshops on academic integrity, a zero on the assessment, and/or a zero (F) in the course (with no ability to withdraw), among other negative consequences. Please make sure that you are familiar with what counts as plagiarism as it is your responsibility as a student to know:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity

Reviewing Tests: After completing the online tests for this course, student will only be able to see their final score. Individual answers are not displayed to students. For students who are interested in seeing individual answers, please email the instructor.

Extra Assignments / Re-submitting Work: 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 / re-write / re-submit assignments to increase their grade. **Unfortunately, these are not options due to the large size of this class, etc.** Please make sure to try your best for each assessment as there are no second attempts.

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.

Penalty for Late Assignments: Assignments will be deducted 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue. For example, if the assignment is due on Friday by midnight, then the late penalty takes effect on Saturday at 12:01 a.m. Then, 15% is deducted every day (so 15% on Saturday, then another 15% on Sunday at 12:01 a.m. etc.).

Extensions: If an extension is required, students are expected to reach out to the instructor before the assessment is due, not afterwards. **Only valid reasons for extensions will be considered.** For instance, extensions will **not** be granted for poor time-management skills (having multiple assignments due at the same time, leaving work until the last minute, etc.). Time management is an essential skill to learn. For help with building time management skills, please see: https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/time-management

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 assessments. It is not necessary to pass each assessment separately in order to pass the course. There are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up final grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. A 59.4% will NOT be rounded up. Only .5% and above. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests and assignments 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 (on all tests and assignments). 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. Even when you do provide a citation, you still need to adequately paraphrase the information into your own words. 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 on tests) 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

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENT
Assignments must be submitted in either a .doc or .pdf file format. Other formats (like .pages) will not be accepted. An assignment may be considered late until the acceptable file format is provided, so please make sure to submit the correct file format before the deadline. Please also make sure that your file loads correctly.

CONDUCT
Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour (both in-person and online) that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. This includes interaction over email, so please be respectful. 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 EVALUATIONS 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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

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/ .

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

Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:

- **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
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk- 403-220-5333