Course Outline – Winter 2020

Course RELS 200: Religious Myths & Worldviews
Time This course will be delivered online through the university’s D2L system
Instructor Dr. Denis J. Bekkering
Office Hours By appointment via Skype
E-mail denis.bekkering1@ucalgary.ca

Required Text(s):


Readings posted to the course’s D2L site.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to religious myths and worldviews from various cultures and historical periods. Students will engage with primary texts, academic analyses, and theoretical frameworks. The course is thematically organized, and will highlight key similarities and differences between a wide range of religious myths and worldviews.

The course is divided into six modules:

  1) Introduction to Studying Myth and Creation Myths
  2) Creation Myths (Part Two) and Destruction Myths
  3) Heroes and Tricksters
  4) Heroes and Tricksters (Part Two)
  5) Ritual and Myth
  6) Folktales and Contemporary Myth

Online Elements for This Course:

Each module will begin with an introductory online lecture posted to the course’s D2L site, where additional readings and course materials will also be located. Tests, excluding the on-campus final exam, will be completed within D2L.

Core Competencies:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

  • Knowledgeably discuss numerous religious myths and worldviews.
• Identify important similarities and differences between the religious myths and worldviews covered in the course.
• Analyze religious myths and worldviews not explicitly discussed in the course.
• Explain and critique various academic approaches to the study of religious myths and worldviews.

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 2020</td>
<td>Test #1 – Module #1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6, 2020</td>
<td>Test #2 – Module #2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20, 2020</td>
<td>Test #3 – Module #3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12, 2020</td>
<td>Test #4 – Module #4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26, 2020</td>
<td>Test #5 – Module #5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2020</td>
<td>Test #6 – Module #6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled by Registrar During Final Exam Period (April 18-29, 2020)</td>
<td>Final Exam – On Campus</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tests (60% of Grade):**

Each of the six tests will cover the material associated with their respective modules. This will include readings from the assigned textbook, information from the introductory lectures for each module, and may also include readings and other material posted to D2L. Students will complete the six tests within the course’s D2L site. Each test will be time-limited upon commencement, and will be available to complete within a fourteen-hour window on its assigned date.

Students are **not** permitted to use course materials (e.g., the textbook) during the tests. In other words, the tests are not “open book.” Using course materials during the tests is a form of **academic misconduct**, and evidence of such will be dealt with accordingly. Moreover, students will have a limited amount of time to answer each question, making it very difficult to seek out answers. It is best not to attempt such tactics. It should also be added that the tests must be completed independently. Collaborative test-taking is a serious form of **academic misconduct**.

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they have access to compatible computers/devices and reliable internet connections. Technological and/or internet issues will **not** be accepted as reasons for test non-completion without extensive supporting evidence.

**Final Exam (40% of Grade):**

The final exam for this course is **cumulative**, and will be held **on campus** during the registrar-scheduled final exam period (April 18-29, 2020). This will be a “closed-book” exam (i.e. students will not be able to use notes or course material during the exam).
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 - 96</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89 – 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84 - 80</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>79 – 75</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>74 - 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>69 - 65</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>64 – 60</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>59 – 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>54 - 53</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>52-50</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Under 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. All written components will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy on Missed Assessments:

Alternative arrangements for completing the tests or final exam will only be considered in exceptional circumstances (e.g., a traffic accident or death in the family) verified via documentation. In the case of illness, students may submit a doctor’s note or a statutory declaration signed by a Commissioner for Oaths. Students must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed test or final exam.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

- Student success will depend on completing the required readings, engaging with other assigned material, and viewing the online lectures.
- All emails sent to the instructor must come from an official University of Calgary email account. The instructor will not be responsible for unanswered emails sent from other accounts.
- Students should allow three business days for the instructor to respond to emails.

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/.

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](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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at [https://arts.ucalgary.ca/](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/](https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) for more information.

The Students’ Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/).

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/](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](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html).