

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2019**

**Course** RELS 200 (Religious Myths and Worldviews)

**Time** Web-based

**Instructor** Durga Kale

**Office Hours** By appointment

**Office**

**E-mail** durga.kale1@ucalgary.ca

**Telephone**

**Required Text(s):** Smart, Ninian. *Worldviews: Crosscultural Explorations of Human Belief (Third edition)*. New Jersey: Pearson, 1999 [0130209805 (ISBN13: 9780130209801)]

**Optional Text(s):** Selections from various texts will be posted on D2L or will be accessible via Uni-versity of Calgary library online access.

**Course Description:**

Why study myths in today's day and age? How does mythology feature in the age of science and robotics? For a straightforward reason; myths offer an entry point into how we look at the world around us! Our view of the world is largely shaped by the stories we hear and probably retell. In the process of constructing this mythical world, the storytellers often weave in historical facts, observations on life around them and ultimately contribute to a certain worldview. The religious narratives are largely built on some cultural archetypes, that are instrumental in influencing how we perceive the world and people around us.

This course will explore the history of the study of mythology and tour around the world (virtually), looking at some case examples from Meso-America to East Asia. "Religious Myths and Worldviews" will probe into the relevance of religious mythological narratives in understanding the different views of the world. Touching on Aztec and the Inuit concept of the world, the course will explore different worldviews on animating the lived space with semi-divine beings. The "savior archetype" seen in Greek, Hindu and Norse myths will be analyzed in the light of popular Marvel superheroes today. Buddhist and Shinto myths on the other hand, will be deconstructed from the point of view of metaphorical or symbolic elements of the mythology. This course will draw from the studies on mythological theory such as Kirk, Douglas and Campbell; and connect with modern examples around us.

**Online elements for this course:** This is a web-based course, and all components of the course (except the required text) will be delivered online. A combination of readings, video lectures, video clips and online activities such as quizzes will be posted on D2L course section. The additional reading components for the course will be accessible via University of Library online access.

*This course will incorporate online peer-learning activities and group discussions.*

**Core Competencies:**

1. At the end of the course, the students will be able to identify the components and types of myths.
2. Critical thinking to deconstruct the myth(s) and thinking in terms of frame narratives and presentation of a worldview through symbolic elements will be achieved.
3. The students will also be able to identify prominent themes and actors in the myths discussed in the course.
4. As a product of this course, the students will walk away with a sense of peer-learning and the experience of deconstructing popular narratives to understand the background with the associated worldviews.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Reflection Paper	10%	
July 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Individual project outlines due	20%	
Ongoing (distributed over 6 weeks)	Discussion boards and participation on group discussion	30%	
August 2 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Group feedback due	10%	
August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Online quiz	10%	
August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Final project submission	20%	

**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 regard to both form and content.

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

The quizzes will be accessible online for 24 hours on the specified dates. Please ensure to take the quiz on that day. Contact the instructor IN ADVANCE regarding conflict owing to the posted schedule. In an event of missing the quiz, supporting document must be presented or emailed electronically to the instructor.

For submission of assignments which are made 24 hours AFTER the posted deadline, 5% mark will be deducted.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

1. Students will be interacting online with the peers and the instructor. The students are expected to be courteous, use decent language while communicating on the discussion boards and be mindful and respectful of others' viewpoints. The online space is to be made a safe space where the students can voice their opinions honestly and can continue a meaningful dialogue in the course, as well as outside.
2. Students are expected to respect the deadlines, as the peer-activities rely on timely responses and responsible conduct.
3. Student participation is crucial for this course.
4. **Email policy:** The communication to address queries for the course will be over email, and students could expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays. DO NOT mail the projects over email. All course documents/assessments/quizzes/projects will be submitted/administered/assessed on D2L.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

The course content will be delivered electronically, hence the use of electronic devices is required.

**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>.