

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

**COURSE OUTLINE – Summer 2020**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 200 (Religious Myths and Worldviews)
<b>Time</b>	Web-based
<b>Instructor</b>	Durga Kale
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment, individual meetings on Zoom
<b>Email</b>	durga.kale1@ucalgary.ca

**Required Text(s):** No Required text

**Mandatory reading selections from various texts will be posted on D2L or will be accessible via the University of Calgary library online access.**

Select mythologies will be accessed from Leeming, David. 2014. "The World of Myth: An Anthology", Oxford: Oxford University Press (unlimited access from UCalgary library <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1100071>)

**Course Description:**

These are uncertain times globally, but we are encouraged by reports of communities pulling together through such times. The ancient myths render a picture of challenges, perils, and victories over uncertainties. Mythology offers an entry point into how we look at the world around us. In the process of constructing this mythical world, the storytellers often weave in historical, and social aspects, observations on life around them, and ultimately contribute to the worldview of a society. The religious narratives are primarily built on some cultural archetypes that are instrumental in influencing how we perceive the world and the people around us. RELS 200: Religious Myths and Worldviews is a survey of all these aspects of social narratives.

This course will explore the history of the study of mythology and tour around the world (virtually), looking at some myths and legends 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. The course will dip into the conversation on the perception of COVID-19 in global communities based on their worldviews and the religious myths. The work of researchers such as Eliade, Campbell, Lévi-Strauss, Jung, Smart, and others will provide an outline to the analysis.

**Online elements for the course:**

RELS 200: Religious Myths and Worldviews is an online course, and all components of the course will be accessible through D2L. A combination of readings, video lectures, video clips and online activities such as quizzes will be posted on D2L course section. The lectures will be asynchronous, that is, the student can access the course material at their convenience throughout the course. *This course will incorporate online peer-learning activities and group discussions.* It is expected that the student completes the assigned lectures and reading prior to the online group discussions expected to be posted on D2L each weekend.

The course blog is hosted on UCalgary blogs and will be linked on D2L (<http://religiousmythsandworldviews.ucalgaryblogs.ca/>).

All additional reading components for the course will be accessible via University of Calgary library online access.

**Core Competencies:**

1. At the end of the course, the students will be able to identify major components, narrative schemes and the types of myths.
2. Students will be able to apply critical thinking in deconstructing the elements of the myths.
3. 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.
4. After successful completion of the course, students will be able to form connections between the religious myths and worldviews across select societies in modern context.

**Course Requirements:**

The student is expected to be sincere and diligent with the assigned tasks of the week (over a course of eight weeks). The class will be divided in smaller groups, and it is required that the student participates actively and submits their portion of the task in a timely manner. 8 – 10 hours of focused work per week is recommended for success in this course.

Core activities for the course are outlined as follows:

Due Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 Sunday	Online Quiz 1	20%
August 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020	Online Quiz 2	20%

Sunday		
Ongoing	Discussion boards and participation in group discussion (4 discussion posts)	20%
Ongoing	One long-form analytical blog post on the course blog	20%
August 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 Sunday	Final submission to D2L Drop-box (take-home assignment)	20%

There will be no Registrar scheduled exam

## Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course component. 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.

Late submission of assignments (24 hours AFTER the posted deadline), will be penalized with 10% deduction in total grade for the assignment.

## 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 respectful 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 freely within the context of academic honesty 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:**

Complete syllabus will be available on the first day of the class on D2L.

**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.

**Copyright Regulations:**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright Policy](#) and understand their copyright responsibilities. Instructor created content (lecture presentations, assignments, exams, etc.) have been designed for use as part of this course at the University of Calgary and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copyright-protected materials may only be copied or distributed provided it is permissible to do so under [Canadian Copyright law](#), university agreements and permission from the copyright holder. Find out more about copyright at [library.ucalgary.ca/copyright](http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright).

**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/>.

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