



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2020**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 609/709

COURSE NAME: Critical Discourses in the Study of Religion: the Study of Narrative & The Study of Religion

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Online

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Mondays 2-4:45pm, on Zoom

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT:

Dr. Elizabeth Rohlman

Please see D2L for contact information

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Students should email the instructor from their ucalgary email accounts. Students can expect email replies on week days within 72 hours of receipt of the initial email. Further details about email policies and alternative means of contacting the instructor will be provided in class and on D2L.

OFFICE HOURS:

Please contact the professor via email.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

“Selected topics on critical discourses in the study of religion.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a graduate level seminar in critical discourses in the study of religion addressing the theme of narrative. Using the narrative genres of Classical India (*katha* (fable), *itihasa* (epic), and *purana* (myth)) as case studies, we will examine the ways in which narrative conveys religious and moral value. The interpretation of narrative through the lenses of both classical Indian and contemporary western literary theories will be a central concern of the class.

This seminar will be conducted fully synchronously via Zoom. Zoom sessions will occur during the regularly scheduled class time (Mondays, 2-4:45pm.) Should students have to miss Zoom sessions due to illness or other emergencies, they should contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements for earning their participation credit.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

In addition to the content goals of this course, students should also approach this class as a course in academic professionalism. As graduate students, you are now aspiring scholars in your own right and should conduct yourself as such. All students should commit themselves to improving their abilities in

writing, researching, speaking, and critical reading and thinking. Throughout the course, we will regularly discuss these skills and their importance throughout one's academic career.

LEARNING RESOURCES, Required Textbooks:

- 1) Umberto Eco. *Six Walks in the Fictional Woods*. Harvard University Press, 1998.
- 2) Patrick Olivelle, translator. *Pancatantra: The Book of India's Folk Wisdom*. Oxford World's Classics, 2002.
- 3) Edwin F. Bryant, translator. *Krishna: The Beautiful Legend of God (Srimad Bhagavata Purana Book X)*. Penguin Classics, 2004.
- 4) *The Mahabharata*; John D. Smith, translator; Penguin Classics, 2009

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to attend class via Zoom, and should have an electronic device that supports this platform.

Because this is a combined class, all students in RELS 609 &709 will be enrolled in the D2L site for RELS 451 in order to streamline communications. This is where students will find assignments, supplementary readings, the dropbox, and discussion board.

CLASS SCHEDULE

A full class schedule, including weekly readings, will be distributed and discussed on the first day of class.

EXAMINATIONS

There is no registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Participation: Regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are essential to a successful seminar. Participation grades will be determined by two factors, totalling 30% of the final grade:

- a. The quality of each student's daily preparedness and contributions to regular class discussions: (20%)
- b. D2L Discussion Board: Students will be required to post to the D2L discussion board at least 10 times over the course of the semester (10%).

Between class meetings, the instructor will moderate an ongoing discussion about class materials on the D2L discussion board. Students will be asked to post questions or comments about the assigned readings, as well as responses to their classmates' questions and comments. Questions may refer either to the readings assigned for an upcoming class, or to discussion conducted during the last week's class. Students will be required to post at least 10 times to the discussion board, and at least half (5) of these posts should be made before the mid-term paper is due. Discussion board posts will be marked on a credit-no credit (pass-fail) basis.

2. Mid-term Paper: Students will write a 10 page mid-term paper. The midterm paper will require students to interpret a selection from one of the primary texts covered in class through the lens of a narrative theorist of their choice. Students' choices of narrative theorists must be approved by the

instructor in advance, and students should schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss and secure this approval. The mid-term paper will constitute 25% of the student’s final grade and is due Friday, October 30.

3. Final Paper: Students will submit a final research paper on a topic of their choice (related to the course content, of course). Students enrolled in 609 should submit a 20 page paper; students enrolled in 709 should submit a 25 page paper. The research paper is a project in which students will engage throughout the semester. To this end, students will be asked to submit a term-paper research proposal on Monday, November 16 *and* to schedule an appointment to discuss their research proposal with the instructor during the week of November 16-20. Failure to submit the research proposal or schedule an appointment with the instructor will result in a 25-point reduction in the student’s final paper grade. The final paper is due Wednesday, December 9. The final paper will constitute 45% of the student’s final grade.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Ongoing	Participation	30%	No
October 30	Mid-term paper	25%	No
December 9	Final paper	45%	No

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Should a student need an extension on an assignment, they are encouraged to make arrangements with the instructor in before the due date. If a due date is missed due to illness or emergency, students should contact the instructor in writing within 48 hours, as per the university calendar.

Missing assignments for which no arrangements have been made will be counted as a “zero” when final grades are calculated.

GRADING

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University’s Graduate Studies Calendar 2019-2020:

A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw

		regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

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

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written work will be assessed on the basis of both content and presentation. Poor quality writing (e.g., excessive grammatical errors) or careless presentation (e.g., excessive typos) will result in lower grades. With respect to this policy, students should note the University’s policy on Writing Across the Curriculum, section E.2 of the Calendar:

“Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.”

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments should be submitted to the D2L dropbox by 11:59pm on their due date.

All assignments should be submitted in the form of .doc or .docx files.

CONDUCT

All discourse in this class, whether over Zoom, email, or the D2L discussion board, is to be expressed in a manner that is respectful of your fellow students and the instructor. Students are reminded that while the primary texts we are discussing in class were written millennia ago, they are revered and celebrated within vibrant, living religious traditions to this day. Criticism of these traditions is fair game during seminar, but should be expressed in a manner that is respectful of the traditions and their contemporary adherents.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

Students are permitted to use any electronic devices they deem necessary to support their learning in this class, including during class time. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that electronic devices are supporting, rather than distracting from, their learning during class time.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/> .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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>.

MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

****Media recording for lesson capture***

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

****Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices***

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

****Media recording for the assessment of student learning***

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

