

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

Course	RELS 200 L02: Religious Myths & Worldviews
Time	This is an online course that will be delivered through the Desire2Learn (D2L) learning management system.
Instructor	Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
Office Hours	Wednesday 2:00-4:00 or by appointment
Office	SS 502
E-mail	cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-5612

Required Text(s):

Karen Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth*. Vintage Canada, 2006 Edition.

David A Leeming, *The World of Myth*. Oxford University Press, 2014 Edition.

Course Description: What is a myth? What is a religious myth? How do myths express worldview? Do religious myths still influence the western worldview?

This course will provide an introduction to the study of religious myths, focusing on the myths of practiced religion. The course will be structured according to chronological categories in *A Short History of Myth* by Karen Armstrong and include primary source readings from *The World of Myth* by David Leeming. Major topics include creation, the flood, human condition and destiny, divinity and transcendence, revelation, the apocalypse, heroes and savior figures, and sacred places.

The course will be composed of five modules:

- Module 1 Introduction to Myth
- Module 2 Pre-historical Mythologies
- Module 3 Axial Age Mythologies
- Module 4 Post-Axial Age Mythologies
- Module 5 The Great Western Transformation

Course content will be delivered through readings, audio files, and online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

Online elements for this course: Accessing online documentaries and video recordings. Links will be posted on D2L. Completing online tests.

NOTE: All tests for this course are completed online. Module tests will be available for a 12-hour period of time on the day assigned for the test. Every student in the course is expected to take the test within that period of time. Module tests are timed, requiring students to complete the test within a specified time limit. It is important for students to take extra care to ensure that they have access to dependable power and internet service. Do not rely on your computer battery as your only power source when taking the exam. “My battery died” will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience interruption to internet service while taking the exam, please contact the instructor as soon as internet service is restored. In the meantime, document your location, and the date and time of the interruption to internet service. If a student cannot complete the exam during the 12-hour period of time on the day assigned for the test due to “technical difficulties”, such as interruption to internet service or computer malfunction, the student must notify the instructor within 24 hours via email.

Core Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- key terms and concepts in the study of religion and mythology
- the role of myth shaping religious worldviews
- a dimensional view of religion
- chronological developments in the construction of mythologies
- myths of the Mesopotamians and Israelites
- essential myths and narratives in the major world religions
- higher criticism, modern hermeneutics, and demythologizing
- paradigm shifts in mythical thinking

Course Requirements:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Module 1 Test: Includes all module 1 course material	Monday, September 21	10%
Module 2 Test: Includes all module 2 course material	Wednesday, October 7	20%
Module 3 Test: Includes all module 3 course material	Friday, October 30	30%
Module 4 Test: Includes all module 4 course material	Monday, November 23	30%
Module 5 Test: Includes all module 5 course material	Tuesday, December 8	10%

NOTE: There is no final exam for this course.

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, standardized 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

Adjusted Grades: The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment for grades. Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or ‘round up’ your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments: If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero. There are of course many reasons for missing a test that are not considered to be valid, including but not limited to: work schedules that conflict with the day of a test, family functions that conflict with the day of a test, forgetting about a test, traffic congestion on the day of a test.

Email: Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and class schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to assessment must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline.

Syllabus: A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Weighting of Module Tests: The weighting for module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate student requests.

Reviewing Tests: The online tests for this course display the student’s final score. Test answers are not displayed. For students interested in seeing individual test answers, please make an appointment with the instructor at the end of the term after all tests are completed. At that time you can review all of your test answers.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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.

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.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Classics Student Society

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit

<http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> 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 Library Block.

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 www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@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. 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.