

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2015**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 200 L01 – Origin and Nature of Religious Worldviews
<b>Time</b>	Electronic Online Course – All course information, test assessments, and group discussions to be accessed or completed in University of Calgary's Desire2Learn course management system.
<b>Instructor</b>	Jonathan Napier
<b>Office</b>	SS 502
<b>Office Hours</b>	Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00-11:00am (online)
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:janapier@ucalgary.ca">janapier@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	403-220-5612

**Required Text**

*Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths (2013 third edition; Eva M. Thury and Margaret K. DeVinney, eds; Oxford University Press).*  
Additional Readings may be posted on D2L.

**Course Description**

Throughout this course we will seek to discover and uncover the origins and essence of religious worldviews through their stories. Religious stories possess mythical power and serve to frame and order the cosmos, and humanity's place in it with relation to the sacred, the transcendent or some other higher power. Further, stories offer insight into life's purpose, meaning, and significance. During this course students will explore various religious stories and leading theoretical frameworks for understanding them.

**Online Elements for this course:** All information related to this course will be posted on D2L. Student discussions, assignments, instructions, and feedback will be online. Course content will be delivered through readings, audio files and online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

**Core Competencies**

Students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on central issues in the academic study of religion. Students will be expected to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and peer discussions. They will also have the opportunity to pursue clear and concise writing, research, and communication abilities. This course will enhance students' analytic skills and help them to get to the core of an issue. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect and converse more clearly and critically on the diverse nature of religion in society. Ultimately, this course will promote research, writing, and critical thinking.

**Course Requirements**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
10 am May 21 – 10 pm May 22	Test 1	10%	No
10 am May 28 – 10 pm May 29	Test 2	10%	No
10 am June 4 – 10 pm June 5	Test 3	10%	No
10 am June 11 – 10 pm June 12	Test 4	10%	No
10 am June 18 – 10 pm June 19	Test 5	10%	No
10 am June 25 – 10 pm June 26	Test 6	10%	No
Ongoing	Participation	4x 5% = 20%	No
June 26	Written Assignment	20%	No

**Participation**

Students are expected to respond to 4 out of the 6 modules an initial post and a response (approx. 200 words maximum per post). Posts will be graded on their content with these two questions in mind: do the student's posts offer an understanding of course material? And, do the student's posts add in a meaningful way to the discussion?

**Test 1-6**

Tests will be designed to discern the student's knowledge of course reading and related material posted on D2L. Students will be given 36 hours in which to write a module test.

**Written Assignment**

Students are expected to write a religious myth and provide an analysis of it. It can be a creation, apocalyptic, warning, explanatory, teaching, parable, or miraculous story. Stories should be roughly 700 words. Students should also provide a brief analysis of their adaptation and include such information as why they chose to incorporate certain elements, which symbols were drawn upon, what they intended to convey with their stories. Analysis should be approximately 1000 words. Students will then submit their assignments to Dropbox on D2L on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Once complete, students will have the option to post their story (or read it aloud) on D2L to allow other students to engage and reflect upon other myths.

**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 & 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**

Given that this an online course (accessible anywhere, anytime), and, given that discussions and test writing take place over an extended period, no concession for missed tests or discussions will be granted, except for cases of significant illness or domestic issue (adequately described, verifiable with proper medical documentation noting the significance of the illness, to be submitted electronically within 24 hours subsequent to the test period). In the event of such exceptional circumstances a make-up will be scheduled during the final exam period, to be written in person in the Department of Classics & Religion (exam time to be announced). Please note: unlike the online tests, all make-up tests will be in short-answer format with no access to external materials (textbook or notes) permitted.

According to the University Calendar Academic Regulations G.6, “Deferred examinations are allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction and religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the Examinations Timetable are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred examination.” For further information please see:

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final)

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

Students are expected to be prepared to fully participate in discussions on course material in a respectful manner. Also, students should familiarize themselves with the university’s Academic Honesty policy. Please be courteous in email correspondence.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy**

Students are expected to ensure that their computer and internet provider are fully operational and stable. No exceptions will be made for technical glitches (e.g., server crash, browser freeze-up, battery drain, wi-fi dropout ... in short, anything between the university's system and the student's computer) other than significant outages in the University’s system. It is therefore the responsibility of the student of an online electronic course to ensure that s/he possesses (or has access to) the proper equipment and secure signal necessary to complete all components of the course.

### **Syllabus**

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

### **References and Bibliography**

The Department of Classics & 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](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.

### **Writing Support**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](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.