

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2020

Course: RELS 200-L01 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: Tuesday 1:00-2:00. The instructor will be available for individual online sessions by appointment. Alternate times by appointment.
Office: SS 516
E-mail: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca

Required Text(s):

Karen Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth*. Vintage Canada, 2006 Edition. Available in electronic version via Amazon. If students prefer a physical copy, the U of C bookstore is taking on line orders and providing free shipping.

David A Leeming, *The World of Myth*. Oxford University Press, Third Edition 2019. Available in electronic version via Oxford, see <https://redshelf.com/book/937222/the-world-of-myth-937222-9780190900144-david-a-leeming> If students prefer a physical copy, the U of C bookstore is taking on line orders and providing free shipping.

Note: The textbooks are required as listed above. If a student has access to an earlier edition, it is the responsibility of the student to synchronize the readings with the required edition.

Additional readings will be posted on D2L.

Course Description:

What is a myth? What is a religious myth? How do myths express worldview? Do religious myths influence worldview?

This course will introduce 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 and Worldview
- 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, web-based resources, and online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

Online elements for this course:

Accessing online audio files, documentaries, video recordings, and websites. Completing online tests.

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.

Tests:

All tests for this course are completed online. Tests are NOT open book. Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the module tests. Each module test will be available for a 24-hour period on the date assigned for the test. 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. Plug in your computer power cord. 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 an exam during the 24-hour period on the date assigned for the test due to interruption to internet service or computer malfunction, the student must notify the instructor of the interruption to internet service within 24 hours after the test period via email.

IMPORTANT: Module content is NOT available on the day of a module test. Students need to ensure that they have completed preparation for the test before the day of the test.

Core Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify key terms and concepts in the study of religion and mythology
- understand dimensional views of religion with a focus on the narrative-mythical dimension
- understand the role of myth in shaping religious worldviews
- identify chronological developments in the construction of mythologies
- identify and analyze representative myths in select civilizations and world religions
- understand the shift from mythos to logos in western culture
- understand the approaches of higher criticism and skepticism applied to mythology e.g. demythologizing

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Wednesday, May 13	Module 1 Test: Includes Module 1 course material	10%
Wednesday, May 20	Module 2 Test: Includes Module 2 course material	20%
Wednesday, May 27	Module 3 Test: Includes Module 3 course material	30%
Wednesday, June 3	Module 4 Test: Includes Module 4 course material	30%
Wednesday, June 17	Module 5 Test: Includes Module 5 course material	10%

This course will not have a Registrar-scheduled final examination.

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 Final Grades:

The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

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 Coursework:

The weighting for coursework is identified above. The weighting of coursework cannot be changed per the University Calendar - *E.1 Course Outlines*.

Policy with regards to missed assessments:

If a student misses an assessment (a module test) due to illness or an emergency, the student must notify the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed assessment.

If a makeup assessment is approved by the instructor, the student must take the initiative to arrange a time to complete the assessment within one week from the date of the missed assessment.

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 your test answers.

Midterm Test Deferrals:

To accommodate students that have scheduling conflicts between a RELS 200 test and tests from other U of C courses, the instructor's policy is as follows: A student may request to write a RELS 200 test on an alternate date if the student has, including the RELS 200 test, three or more other tests scheduled on the SAME day that are each worth more than 25% of their final grade. A RELS 200 test will not be rescheduled to accommodate an assignment deadline in another course. The instructor must receive the deferral request at least two weeks before the scheduled date of a RELS 200 test. Please request accommodation in writing (email).

Expectations for email correspondence in this course:

Email must be sent from a U of C email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail.

Please include 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 final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline.

The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

Office hours:

Office hours will be delivered online via Zoom. To protect confidentiality, meetings with students will be delivered online on an individual basis only. Students must contact the instructor to request an appointment during office hours. Appointments will be structured in 15-minute intervals. For students that are not available during office hours, please contact the instructor via email to request an alternate time.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus (class schedule) 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/.

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.

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 <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

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.

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.

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/>.