



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Spring 2022**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 200-01

**COURSE NAME:** Religious Myths & Worldviews

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** ICT 121

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Mon Wed 9:00-11:45

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:** Craig Ginn, PhD  
[cwcginn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cwcginn@ucalgary.ca)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 1:00-2:00 (alternate hours by appointment).

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:** Email must be sent through your 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.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:** Readings (in English translation) from the classical literatures of middle Eastern and Asian religions. Introduction to the evolving mythological traditions from three geo-cultural centres (the middle East, India, and China) by examining religious themes: cosmology; existential values and goals; destinies of humans, the world, and the cosmos. This course may not be repeated for credit.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** What is a myth? What is a worldview? How do religious myths express and inform worldview? This course will provide an introduction to the study of religious myths, focusing on the myths of practiced religion. The primary religious traditions studied in this course will include Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Additional traditions and worldviews will be considered, including early civilizations, Indigenous traditions, and other religious traditions.

Major topics include the cosmos, the flood, sacrifice, the human condition, human destiny, divinity and transcendence, revelation, the apocalypse, heroes and savior figures, and sacred places. Students will consider the functions of mythology as proposed by Joseph Campbell, including mystical, cosmological, sociological and pedagogical. The course will include primary source readings from *The World of Myth* by David Leeming. Students will be introduced to chronological categories provided in *A Short History of Myth* by Karen Armstrong, including pre-historical mythologies, Axial Age mythologies, and post-Axial Age mythologies. The course will include discussion of conflict and congruence with modernity, with special attention given to Higher Criticism, demythologizing, and modern hermeneutical approaches.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completing this course students will be able to:

- identify and apply key terms and concepts in the study of religion and mythology
- describe the role of myth in shaping religious worldviews
- explore the dimensional view of religion with a focus on the mythic-narrative dimension
- discuss representative myths in world religions
- distinguish types and functions of myths
- describe chronological developments in religions and mythical traditions
- examine the formation of religious myths in their historical and cultural contexts
- discuss higher criticism, demythologizing, and hermeneutical approaches
- contribute to a group presentation and presentation materials

**LEARNING RESOURCES:** David A Leeming, *The World of Myth*. Oxford University Press, 1991.

\*The full text of the 1991 edition is online available through the U of C library.

David A Leeming, *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

\*The full text of the 2006 edition is online available through the U of C library.

Additional readings and resources will be posted on D2L

**LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS:** There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** To be posted on D2L

**EXAMINATIONS:** There is a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course. The final examination period is scheduled for June 20-22. Students must be available to write the final exam on the day and time set by the Registrar's Office.

**ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:**

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Midterm Exam	May 30 (based on course materials from May 4 – May 25)	35%
Group presentation	Each student will contribute to and participate in a group presentation. Presentations will be scheduled May 16-June 15. Each student in the group will be graded based on their contribution to the presentation.	15%
Presentation materials	Each group will submit a single PowerPoint file and their presentation script/outline with references for grading. The PowerPoint file can be edited following the group presentation. The PowerPoint file is due within three days following the group presentation. Each student in the group will be graded based on their contribution to the PowerPoint presentation.	15%
Final Exam	The Final Exam (based on course materials from May 30 to June 15) will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the final examination period. The dates of the final examination period are June 20-22. Students must be available to write the final exam on the day and time set by the Registrar's Office.	35%

**GROUP PRESENTATION:** Each student will be required to contribute to a group presentation. Each group will include individual assignments including research, narration/story-telling, analysis/commentary, and interpretation/reception. Each student will be required to contribute to one of the individual assignments. The group will prepare a PowerPoint presentation to present during class time. Each group is required to submit their PowerPoint file and presentation materials (script/outline and references) within three days following the group presentation for grading. The individual contribution of each group member must be clearly identified in the PowerPoint file.

Note: If a group presentation contains graphic material please alert the class to the nature of the content in advance.

Students must sign up for a group presentation that will be scheduled in class between the dates May 16-June 13. A signup sheet for the groups will be distributed in class on May 4. The order of signing up for a group will be determined by random selection by the instructor in advance of the May 4 class. Students who are unable to participate in a group presentation must contact the instructor by May 11 to arrange an alternative assignment.

**WRITING ASSISTANCE:** For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing Support. [https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support?utm\\_source=ssc&utm\\_medium=redirect&utm\\_campaign=redirect](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect)

**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. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests and assignments will not be rounded up). There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to resubmit assignments or retake tests to increase their grade.

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENTS:** The weighting for assessments is identified above. The weighting of assessments will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

**GRADING:** A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned based 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

**EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING:** All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**CONDUCT:** Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer their inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK:** Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS**

**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 ACCOMMODATION:** 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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

**RESEARCH ETHICS:** not applicable

**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:**

**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.

NOTE: Students are encouraged to type questions in the chat section of zoom.

**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