

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

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

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: Thursday 3:30-4:30 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 influence 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, web-based resources, 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.

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 14-hour period of time 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. “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 an exam during the 14-hour period of time 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. Students that require a makeup test are required to arrange a time with the instructor. Normally makeup tests will not be online, but will be invigilated by the instructor or teaching assistant at the Department of Classics and Religion.

Core Competencies:

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

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

Course Requirements:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Module 1 Test: Includes module 1 course material	Wednesday, January 25	10%
Module 2 Test: Includes module 2 course material	Monday, February 13	20%
Module 3 Test: Includes module 3 course material	Thursday, March 9	30%
Module 4 Test: Includes module 4 course material	Tuesday, March 28	30%
Module 5 Test: Includes module 5 course material	Wednesday, April 12	10%

NOTE 1: 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.

NOTE 2: 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, 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

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 Module Tests:

The weighting for module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual 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.

Policy with Regard to Missed Assignments/Assessments:

If a student misses a test due to illness or an emergency, 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.

Expectations for Email Correspondence in this Course:

Please be courteous in email correspondence. Inquiries related to a test must be sent no less than 24 hours before the day of the test. Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by your full 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 the D2L course site for schedule information.

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.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. 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 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:

- 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. 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 3rd 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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/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 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.

