

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2020

Course: RELS 200-01 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 by appointment (alternate hours by appointment)
Office: SS 516
E-mail: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: (403) 220-5695

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.

Note: The textbooks are required as listed above. If a student has access to an online version that is without page numbers, it is the responsibility of the student to synchronize the readings with the required textbook.

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 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 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 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.

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
- identify dimensions of religion
- examine the narrative-mythical dimension of religion as source of worldview
- identify chronological developments in the construction of mythologies
- identify and analyze representative myths in select civilizations and world religions
- compare the shift from mythos to logos
- recognize the role of higher criticism, modern hermeneutics, and demythologizing

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Wednesday, January 29	Module 1 Test: Includes Module 1 course material	10%
Wednesday, February 12	Module 2 Test: Includes Module 2 course material	25%
Wednesday, March 4	Module 3 Test: Includes Module 3 course material	25%
Wednesday, March 25	Module 4 Test: Includes Module 4 course material	25%
Wednesday, April 15	Module 5 Test: Includes Module 5 course material	15%

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 regard to missed assessments:

If a student misses an assessment (a module test) due to illness or an emergency, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation within 72 hours of the absence. Per M.1. Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration, "This could be a medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc." Except in cases of extenuating circumstances, if documentation is not provided within 72

hours the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the assessment and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

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. If a student is unable to complete the assessment within a week, an extension will be provided if a student provides supporting documentation. NOTE: If a student cancels or does not complete the makeup assessment on the reschedule date, the student must provide supporting documentation to account for the cancellation or absence.

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, in addition to the RELS 200 test, two 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 are structured in 15-minute appointments. Sign-up sheets for appointments are posted on the instructor's door at SS 516. If a student is not able to meet with the instructor during office hours, the student may request to meet at an alternative time during department hours. If a student requires an extended meeting, the student must make an appointment outside of the instructor's scheduled office hours during department hours. Generally, extended meetings will not

exceed 30 minutes and will be scheduled on a weekly basis according to the instructor's availability. Students wishing to schedule an extended appointment must provide rationale in their request, e.g. a list of specific items requiring attention.

Note: The instructor will not be available for office hours after 4:00 pm on weekdays, at any time during the weekends, or during the Term Break (February 17-21).

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/>.

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration:

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.