

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2020

Course	RELS 200: Religious Myths & Worldviews
Time	This course will be delivered online through the university's D2L system
Instructor	Dr. Denis J. Bekkering
Office Hours	By appointment via Skype
E-mail	denis.bekkering1@ucalgary.ca

Required Readings:

Eva M. Thury and Margaret K. Devinney, *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*, 4th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Readings posted to the course's D2L site.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to religious myths and worldviews from various cultures and historical periods. Students will engage with primary texts, academic analyses, and theoretical frameworks. The course is thematically organized, and will highlight key similarities and differences between a wide range of religious myths and worldviews.

The course is divided into six modules:

- 1) Introduction to Studying Myth and Creation Myths (Thury and Devinney pp. 1-96)
- 2) Creation Myths (Part Two) and Destruction Myths (ibid. pp. 97-210)
- 3) Heroes and Tricksters (ibid. pp. 211-348)
- 4) Heroes and Tricksters (Part Two) (ibid. pp. 349-498)
- 5) Ritual and Myth (ibid. pp. 499-604)
- 6) Folktales and Contemporary Myth (ibid. pp. 641-785)

Online Elements for This Course:

Each module will begin with an introductory online lecture posted to the course's D2L site. The lectures will be released according to the following schedule:

- Module 1: January 13, 2020
- Module 2: January 27, 2020
- Module 3: February 10, 2020
- Module 4: March 2, 2020
- Module 5: March 16, 2020
- Module 6: March 30, 2020

Additional readings and course materials may be posted on D2L. Tests will be completed within D2L, and the take-home exam will be submitted through D2L.

Core Competencies:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Knowledgeably discuss numerous religious myths and worldviews.
- Identify important similarities and differences between the religious myths and worldviews covered in the course.
- Analyze religious myths and worldviews not explicitly discussed in the course.
- Explain and critique various academic approaches to the study of religious myths and worldviews.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
January 30, 2020	Test #1 – Module #1	10
February 6, 2020	Test #2 – Module #2	10
February 20, 2020	Test #3 – Module #3	10
March 12, 2020	Test #4 – Module #4	10
March 26, 2020	Test #5 – Module #5	10
April 9, 2020	Test #6 – Module #6	10
Material released April 10, 2020; test due April 25, 2020	Take-Home Exam	40

Tests (60% of Grade):

The six tests will cover the material associated with their respective modules. This will include readings from the assigned textbook, information from the introductory lectures for each module, and may also include readings and other material posted to D2L. Students will complete the six tests within the course's D2L site, and each will be available to complete within a fourteen-hour window (between 9:00 am and 11:00 pm Mountain Standard Time) on its assigned date.

Each test will consist of twenty-five multiple-choice questions, and will be time-limited upon commencement. Students will have twenty minutes to complete each test, which works out to forty-eight seconds per question. This time limit is intended to discourage cheating. Students are **not** permitted to use course materials (e.g., the textbook) during the tests. In other words, the tests are not "open book." The time limit will make it very difficult to seek out answers; it is best not to attempt such tactics. Using course materials during the tests is a form of **academic misconduct**, and evidence of such will be dealt with accordingly. It should also be added that the tests must be completed independently. Collaborative test-taking is a serious form of **academic misconduct**.

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they have access to compatible computers/devices and reliable internet connections. Technological and/or internet issues will **not** be accepted as reasons for test non-completion without extensive supporting evidence.

Take-Home Exam (40% of Grade):

For this exam, students will draw on concepts and material from the lectures and readings to analyze **one of three myths** not explicitly covered in the course. This analysis will take the form of a **short paper, 1200 words in length**. The eligible myths for the exam will be posted to D2L at 9:00 AM, April 10, 2020. The exam must be submitted to a designated D2L Dropbox by 11:59 PM, April 25, 2020.

Further details and a marking rubric for the exam will be discussed in the online lecture posted on March 30, 2020. **Students may also choose to accept a mark based on the course’s six tests rather than complete the take-home exam.**

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

N.B. All written components will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy on Missed Assessments:

Alternative arrangements for completing the tests or final exam will only be considered in exceptional circumstances (e.g., a traffic accident or death in the family) verified via documentation. In the case of illness, students may submit a doctor’s note or a statutory declaration signed by a Commissioner for Oaths. Students must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed test or final exam.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

- Student success will depend on completing the required readings, engaging with other assigned material, and viewing the online lectures.
- All emails sent to the instructor must come from an official University of Calgary email account. The instructor will not be responsible for unanswered emails sent from other accounts.
- Students should allow three business days for the instructor to respond to emails.

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>.