

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

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016**

<b>Course</b>	Religious Studies 346 – Chaos, Demons and Monsters
<b>Time</b>	September 6-10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016, T/W/Th/F/S, 9am-5pm
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Ryan J. Williams
<b>Office Hours</b>	Sept. 12-15, 9:00-11:30 and by appointment; after Sept. 15, by appointment only
<b>Office</b>	SS542
<b>E-mail</b>	Ryanjeffrey.williams@ucalgary.ca
<b>Telephone</b>	403-220-2562

**Required Text(s):**

Asma, S.T. 2011. *On Monsters: An Unnatural History of Our Worst Fears*: Oxford UP.

**Optional Text(s):**

Beale, Timothy K. 2001. *Religion and its Monsters*, London: Routledge. (selections, made available on D2L)

Other readings will be made available through D2L.

**Block Week Course Description:**

Please note that this course will run from Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday September 10, 2016.

This course will run for 5 days during block week from 9 am to approximately 5 pm daily. Success in this block week course requires full attendance, thorough preparation and engagement with the material and prompt submission of all assessed requirements. See 'Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments' below.

Students should be aware of the following important regulations concerning Block Week courses: The last day to drop a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the end of the first day of lectures. The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course is the final day of lectures during the Block Week. Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

**Course Description:**

For as long as human have conceived of benevolent higher powers, monsters, chaos and demons have lingered as part of the human imagination. What do the experiences of fascination and repulsion prompted by images around the monster, chaos, and demons tell us about human experience

and human nature? What does the encounter with the grotesque, the other, the inhuman, the unthinkable or the unmanageable tell us about ourselves and others, about virtues and vices, and about how humans come to understand their place in the world, aspirations and their relationship to the transcendent? Through an exploration of the ‘darker’ side of human ideas in the past, present and future, this course will explore the depths of religious experience and the persistence of religious beliefs found in often unexpected places. The course will encourage a more expansive reflection on the role of religion in human self-understanding, society and culture.

**Online elements for this course:  
(if any)**

Some readings will be posted on D2L. Please note that lecture notes and slides will NOT be made available online. Students are expected to attend all lectures and make notes.

**Core Competencies:**

This course aims to introduce students to major topics and issues in the study of religion. Students will develop a knowledge base and the analytical skills necessary for critical and constructive attention to the role that religion plays in human self-understanding, society and culture. Students will acquire skills that are widely applicable, including the synthesis and application of complex ideas, the craft of effective communication, and learn how to construct an effective, informed and nuanced argument.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Sept. 6-10; five responses are due by the end of each day (i.e. midnight) from Sept 6-10.	<i>Daily reflections:</i> students are expected to write 250 word responses each day (i.e. 5 reflections in total) based on discussion questions provided for each day of lectures and class readings. These will be available in advance on the course syllabus found on D2L. Students who submit all 5 assignments on time will receive full response grades. Any missed or late assignment will result in a forfeiture of the full 10% response grades (i.e. a zero).	10%	
Sept. 6-10, one presentation, assigned alphabetically.	<i>Presentations:</i> each afternoon, 15 students will present a 5 minute response to readings and lectures based on their daily reflections (above). Students will be allotted a presentation day alphabetically and students will be informed of their presentation day prior to the start of the block week course through D2L.	10%	
Sept. 12, Monday, noon	Based on your presentation, and by incorporating the oral feedback provided during class discussion, you are required to submit a 750 word paper that responds to the assigned questions/topics.	30%	

Sept. 19, Monday, noon	A written 2000 word paper is due on questions posted prior to the start of the block week course and made available on the course Syllabus found on D2L.	50%	
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*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.* Please note, grades for block week classes may not be posted until the end of the semester, in line with grades for regular semester courses.

**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

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

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

*NO extensions* will be permitted and *NO late assignments and papers* will be accepted without a medical certificate. Students must present on the day they are assigned and failure to do so will result in a zero grade for the presentation.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

It is expected that students will attend all classes during the block week course. Students should come to class having read the required readings, and will be expected to participate in class discussions.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Electronic devices should not interfere with lectures, class discussions, and other students’ learning. Failure to comply will result in students being requested to leave the lecture.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available two weeks before the start of the course on D2L and include final essay questions.

**References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

### **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/](http://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](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](mailto: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 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.