

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2017

Course	RELS 709: The Study of Narrative & The Study of Religion
Time	Wednesdays 9-11:45 AM; SS 527
Instructor	Elizabeth Rohlman
Office Hours	Wednesdays 1-3 an by appointment
Office	SS 550
E-mail	Elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	220-3287

Required Text(s):

- 1) Umberto Eco. *Six Walks in the Fictional Woods*. Harvard University Press, 1998. ISBN: 978-0-674-81050

- 2) Patrick Olivelle, translator. *Pancatantra: The Book of India's Folk Wisdom*. Oxford World's Classics, 2002. ISBN: 978-0192839886

- 3) Edwin F. Bryant, translator. *Krishna: The Beautiful Legend of God (Srimad Bhagavata Purana Book X)*. Penguin Classics, 2004. ISBN: 978-0140447996

- 4) John D. Smith, translator. *The Mahabharata*. Penguin Classics, 2009. ISBN: 9780140446814

- 5) R.K. Narayan. *The Ramayana; A Shortened Modern Prose Version of the Indian Epic*. Penguin Classics, 2006. ISBN: 978-0192839886

In addition, graduate students will be assigned critical articles each week that they can access through JSTOR.

Course Description:

This is a graduate level seminar in critical discourses in the study of religion addressing the theme of narrative. Each week, we will discuss a primary narrative text as a “case study” and one or two articles addressing the study of narrative from a theoretical perspective. The primary texts are thematically linked in that all of them come from the classical and contemporary literary canons of India. The theoretical articles will reflect both the enormous interest that scholars of many humanities and social science disciplines have taken in narrative in recent decades and the interdisciplinary nature of the field of religious studies. Given the interdisciplinary nature of our field, an understanding of the role of narrative studies in the study of religion will require students to consider issues of historiography, archaeology, ethnography, philosophy, linguistics, and literary analysis, among other topics. Secondary scholarship covered in this course may include, but is by no means limited to, the work of Hayden White, Benedict Anderson, Martha Nussbaum, Alisdair MacIntyre, Robert Alter, A. K. Ramnujan, Kirin Narayan, Sheldon Pollock, and Umberto Eco.

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

A full syllabus, guidelines for writing assignments, and occasional supplementary readings can be found on the D2L site for RELS 451.

Core Competencies:

In addition to the content goals of this course, students should also approach this class as a course in academic professionalism. As graduate students, you are now aspiring scholars in your own right and should conduct yourself as such. All students should commit themselves to improving their abilities in writing, researching, speaking, and critical reading and thinking. Throughout the course, we will regularly discuss these skills and their importance throughout one’s academic career.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Ongoing	Participation	30%*	Yes
Friday, October 20 11:59 PM	Close Reading Assignment 1	20%	Yes
Friday, November 24 11:59 PM	Close Reading Assignment 2	20%	Yes
Friday, December 15 11:59 PM	30-35 page Research Term Paper	30%	Yes

*Details on the components and assessments of the participation grade will be included in the full syllabus and explained on the first day of class.

There is no registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

Grading

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University’s Graduate Studies Calendar 2017-2018:

A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be

		counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

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

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Unless prior arrangements are made with the professor, grades on papers will be reduced 5 percentage points for every day they are late.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

All discourse in this class, whether online or in person, is to be expressed in a manner that is respectful of the professor and other students.

Electronic Device Policy:

In order to facilitate active seminar discussion, the use of laptops or tablets is not allowed in this class. Recording of class discussion is not allowed.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus 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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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.

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.

Graduate Student Association Ombudsperson

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.

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.