

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
HUMANITIES 1000 (2008-2009)
MYTH AND SYMBOL

Prof. Noel Salmond
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(or by appointment)
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(or by appointment)
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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:30 Paterson 303

Seminars: Group 1 Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30; Group 2 Tuesdays 8:30 - 10:00;
Group 3 Wednesdays 2:30 – 4:00; Group 4 Mondays 2:30- 4:00. All seminars in Paterson 302

This course engages primary sources -- primarily religious and primarily from the axial age civilizations of the ancient world. In examining these texts we probe fundamental elements of human consciousness: the morphology and function of the mythic and symbolic in human thought, imagination, and ritual practice. Themes include cosmogony, theogony, theophany, theodicy, sacrifice, sacred and profane love, and the hero's quest.

We examine dynamics in religious traditions such as polytheistic versus monotheistic perspectives and changes (as with the Hebrew Prophets) in the evaluation of sacrifice and ritual. We consider the continuities and ruptures between the Hebrew Bible and its Near Eastern environment. We probe, in India, the tension between religion geared towards reinforcement of social life and duty and religion aimed at total transcendence or liberation. In China we examine differing Confucian and Daoist conceptions of the Way.

Contrasts and comparisons across cultures will be made on these themes and tensions. At all times, however, the aim will be to think through what is distinct and perhaps ultimately irreconcilable among these differing visions of human experience, rather than an imposed synthesis of superficial resemblances. Guided by a close reading of primary texts (with reference to a few select secondary sources and resources), the main aim of the course is to inspire reflection on complex and divergent sources of human spirituality, virtue, and wisdom.

The following required texts are on order at the Bookstore:
Fall Term

New Oxford Annotated Bible. Augmented Third Edition. New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha. An Ecumenical Study Bible. Michael D. Coogan, ed. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Dalley, Stephanie. *Myths from Mesopotamia*. Oxford: OUP, 2000.

Miller, Barbara Stoler. *The Bhagavad Gita*. New York: Bantam, 1988.

Miller, Barbara Stoler. *Love Song of the Dark Lord: Jayadeva's Gitagovinda*. 20th Anniversary Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.

Olivelle, Patrick. *Upanisads*. Oxford: OUP, 1998.

Winter Term

O'Flaherty, Wendy Doniger. *Hindu Myths*. London: Penguin, 1975.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching, trans. D.C. Lau, London: Penguin Books, 1963.

Confucius: The Analects, trans. D.C. Lau, London: Penguin Books, 1979

Plato, *Symposium*, trans. A. Nehamas, P. Woodruff. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989

Both Terms: Humanities 1000 Course Pack (2008-2009)

Assignments and Grading:

1) Seminar grade: based on attendance, participation, learning cell written assignments (two per term) and leading seminar discussion (once per term): 20%

2) A three-hour formally scheduled Christmas examination (exam period Dec. 4 - 20): 20%

3) A three-hour formally scheduled final examination (exam period April 8 - 27): 20%

4) Three written assignments: i) 750 words, ii) 1250 words, iii) 2000 words. Assignments i and ii are due in the first term and worth 5% and 15% respectively; assignment iii is due in the second term and worth 20%.

Late assignments (except with medical documentation) are docked one grade-point or 3-1/3 percentage points per day. There will be no make-up learning cells for those missed in the seminars.

HUMS 1000

Fall Schedule 2008

Mon. Sept. 8	Introduction to the course (Profs. Salmond and Stratton)
Wed. Sept. 10	What is Myth? Lincoln and Paden (Prof. Stratton)
Mon. Sept. 15	Intro to Ancient Mesopotamia: Enuma Elish (Prof. Stratton)
Wed. Sept. 17	Gilgamesh (Prof. Stratton)

Mon. Sept. 22	Descent of Inanna and Homeric Hymn to Demeter (Prof. Stratton)
Wed. Sept. 24	Intro to Ancient India. Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Sept. 29	Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond)
Wed. Oct. 1	Upanishads (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Oct. 6	Upanishads (Prof. Salmond)
Wed. Oct. 8	Intro to Bible: Genesis (Prof. Stratton)
Mon. Oct. 13	Thanksgiving
Wed. Oct. 15	Genesis (Prof. Stratton)
Mon. Oct. 20	Genesis (Prof. Stratton)
Wed. Oct. 22	Intro to Hindu Epic (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Oct. 27	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
Wed. Oct. 29	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Nov. 3	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
Wed. Nov. 5	Exodus (Prof. Stratton)
Mon. Nov. 10	Exodus (Prof. Stratton)
Wed. Nov. 12	Deuteronomy (Prof. Stratton)
Mon. Nov. 17	Deuteronomy (Prof. Stratton)
Wed. Nov. 19	The Hindu Pantheon -Vishnu (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Nov. 24	Gita Govinda (Prof. Salmond)
Wed. Nov. 26	Gita Govinda (Prof. Salmond)
Mon. Dec. 1	Gita Govinda – and review (Prof. Salmond)

December 4 – 20 Examination Period (*Do not make travel plans within these dates*)

**HUMS 1000 Seminars
Fall Semester 2008**

1.	Sept. 8 – 10	Introductions	
2.	Sept. 10 - 16	Myth	
3.	Sept. 17 - 23	Gilgamesh	
4.	Sept. 24 - 30	Rig Veda	
5.	Oct. 1 - 7	Upanisads	
6.	Oct. 8 – 14	Genesis	LEARNING CELL
7.	Oct. 15 - 21	Genesis	
8.	Oct. 22 – 28	Bhagavad Gita	
9.	Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	Bhagavad Gita	LEARNING CELL
10.	Nov. 5 - 11	Exodus	
11.	Nov. 12 - 18	Deuteronomy	
12.	Nov. 19 - 25	Gita Govinda	

Note: Dec. 1 make-up seminar for Group 4 on Genesis missed October 13, Thanksgiving

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.*” This can include:

- Copying from another person’s work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person’s work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student’s term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper “factory”, materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in “*substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved.*” (University Senate)

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	“Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6th, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary *Letters of Accommodation*. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the Paul Menton Centre is November 7th, 2008 (for fall/winter term courses) / March 6th 2009 (for winter term courses).

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar’s Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library