

Carleton University

Fall/Winter 2009/2010

**The College of the Humanities
Humanities Program
HUMS 1000: Myth and Symbol**

Prof. Angela Sumegi
Paterson Hall 2A53
520 2600 ext. 2107
Office Hours: Mon. 11:30 – 1:30
(or by appointment)
asumegi@connect.carleton.ca

Prof. Kimberly Stratton
Paterson Hall 2A47
520 2600 ext. 1384
Office Hours: Mon. 5:00-6:00pm
(or by appointment)
kstratto@connect.carleton.ca

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 Paterson 303

Seminars: Group 1 Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:00; Group 2 Tuesdays 4 – 5:30;
Group 3 Thursdays 2:30 – 4:00; Group 4 Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30. 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 the function of the mythic and symbolic in human thought, imagination, and ritual practice. Themes include mortality, cosmogony, theogony, theophany, theodicy, sacrifice, sacred and profane love.

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.

Humanities 1000 Course Pack (Fall)

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

Humanities 1000 Course Pack (Winter)

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

Thurs. Sept. 10 Introduction to the course (Profs. Sumegi and Stratton)

Tues. Sept. 15 What is Myth? Articles by Lincoln and Padenⁱ (Prof. Stratton)

ⁱ In course pack.

Thurs. Sept. 17	Intro to Ancient India. Rig Veda (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Sept. 22	Rig Veda ⁱ (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Sept. 24	Upanishads (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Sept. 29	Upanishads (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Oct. 1	Intro to Ancient Mesopotamia: Babylonian Creation Myth ⁱⁱ (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Oct. 6	Gilgamesh ⁱⁱ (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Oct. 8	Homeric Hymn to Demeter ⁱ (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Oct 13	Theogony (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Oct. 15	Intro to Hindu Epic (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Oct. 20	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Oct. 22	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Oct.27	Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Oct. 29	Intro to Bible: Genesis 1 (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Nov. 3	Genesis 2-11 (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Nov. 5	Genesis 12-50 (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Nov. 10	Exodus (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Nov. 12	The Hindu Pantheon -Vishnu (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Nov. 17	Gita Govinda (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Nov. 19	Gita Govinda (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Nov. 24	Gita Govinda (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Nov. 26	Joshua (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Dec 1	Judges (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Dec 3	Exam prep and review (Prof. Stratton)

ⁱⁱ In *Myths from Mesopotamia*

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

**HUMS 1000 Seminars
Fall Semester 2008**

1. Sept. 10 No groups
2. Sept. 15 - 17 Lincoln and Paden articles on Myth
3. Sept. 22 -24 Rig Veda
4. Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 Upanisads LEARNING CELL
5. Oct. 6 - 8 Enuma Elish, Gilgamesh
6. Oct. 13 – 15 Theogony and Hymn to Demeter
7. Oct. 20 - 22 Bhagavad Gita
8. Oct. 27 – 29 Bhagavad Gita
9. Nov. 3 – 5 Genesis LEARNING CELL
10. Nov. 10 - 12 Exodus
11. Nov. 17 - 19 Gita Govinda
12. Nov. 24 - 26 Gita Govinda
13. Dec. 1 – 3 Joshua/Judges

WINTER SCHEDULE 2009

- Tues. Jan. 5 1 Samuel (Prof. Stratton)
- Thurs. Jan. 7 2 Samuel (Prof. Stratton)
- Tues. Jan. 12 1 Kings (Prof. Stratton)
- Thurs. Jan. 14 2 Kings (Prof. Stratton)
- Tues. Jan. 19 Siva (Prof. Sumegi)

Thurs. Jan. 21	Siva (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Jan. 26	Devi (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Jan 28	Devi (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Feb. 2	Deuteronomy (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Feb. 4	Jeremiah 1 - 44 (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Feb. 9	Ezekiel 1 - 11; Isaiah 40 - 66 (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Feb 11	Book of Job (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Feb. 16	BREAK
Thurs. Feb. 18	BREAK
Tues. Feb. 23	Intro to Ancient China (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Feb 25	Analects (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Mar. 2	Tao Te Ching (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Mar. 4	Tao Te Ching (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. Mar. 9	Proverbs 1 - 9; Ecclesiastes (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Mar. 11	Song of Songs (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Mar. 16	Medea ¹ (Prof. Stratton)
Thurs. Mar. 18	Symposium (Prof. Stratton)
Tues. Mar. 23	Buddhacarita (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. Mar. 25	Buddhacarita (Prof. Sumegi)
Tues. March 30	Buddhacarita (Prof. Sumegi)
Thurs. April 1	Review (Prof Sumegi)
April 8 – 24	Examination Period (<i>Do not make travel plans within these dates</i>)

**Seminars HUMS 1000
Winter Semester 2010**

WEEK:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Jan. 5 – 7 | 1-2 Samuel | |
| 1. | Jan. 12 - 14 | 1-2 Kings | LEARNING CELL |
| 2. | Jan. 19 - 21 | Siva | |
| 3. | Jan. 26 - 28 | Devi | |
| 4. | Feb. 2 – 4 | Deuteronomy / Jeremiah | |
| 5. | Feb. 9 - 11 | Ezekiel / Isaiah; Book of Job | |

BREAK

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 6. | Feb. 23 - 25 | Analects | |
| 7. | Mar. 2 – 4 | Tao Te Ching | LEARNING CELL |
| 8. | Mar. 9 – 11 | Wisdom lit. / Song of Songs | |
| 9. | Mar. 16 - 18 | Medea / Symposium | |
| 10. | Mar. 23 - 25 | Buddhacarita | |
| 11. | Mar. 30 – Apr. 1 | Buddhacarita | |

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 “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

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	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you **only** require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

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: (Area Code 613)

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
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library