

College of the Humanities
Humanities Program
HUMS 1000A

MYTH AND SYMBOL

2010-11

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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. In Greece we examine the transformation of mythic consciousness on the threshold of philosophical reflection.

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.

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:35-12:55 in Paterson Hall 303

Discussion Groups:

Group 1: Thursdays 2:35-3:55 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 2: Thursdays 1:05-2:25 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 3: Fridays 10:05-11:25 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 4: Tuesdays 4:35-5:55 (Paterson Hall 302)

College of the Humanities
HUMS 1000

Required Texts, 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.

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

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

Winter Term:

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

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. *Complete Works*, Ed. John M. Cooper. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett, 1997.

Homer. *Odyssey*. Any modern edition. Note that this text is required for CLCV 2000.

Aeschylus. *Agamemnon*. Any modern edition. Note that this text is required for CLCV 2000.

Required Texts, Both Terms:

Humanities 1000 Course Pack (2010-2011)

Grades for the course will be based on

- 1) Participation in the discussion groups, including leading two discussions (one each term), for a total of 15%;
- 2) Six assignments, worth a total of 60%, distributed as follows:

First Semester:

- One assignment, 1 page in length (250 words), which may be re-written if failed.
- One assignment, 1 page in length (250 words).
- Two assignments, 2 pages in length (500 words).

In order to reward improvement, the grade for these four assignments will be the average of the top two grades received. This will constitute 30% of the grade for the course.

Second Semester:

- Two assignments, each 6 pages (1500 words) in length, each worth 15% (total 30%)
- 3) A three-hour Christmas examination in the formal examination period, December 9th-22nd, worth 10%; and

College of the Humanities
Humanities Program
HUMS 1000A

4) A three-hour final examination in the formal examination period, April 9th-28th, worth 15%.

Grades will be based solely on the individual, academic merit of submitted work. Grades will not be adjusted to achieve a supposed normal distribution (i.e. bell curve) or manipulated in any other way.

THE FINE PRINT

To pass, students must regularly attend the lectures, complete all the written assignments, and sit both the examinations, all unless formally excused by the Instructors because of illness or some other legitimate reason. Failure to complete all the written assignments and sit the Christmas examination unless excused will result in the grade FND (Failed, No Deferral). FND will also be awarded to students whose grades on all the course work exclusive of the final examination are such that they cannot pass the course no matter how well they might do on the final examination.

Attendance Students are responsible for all material covered, announcements made, course documents distributed, and assignments returned, whether they are present in class or not.

Late Assignments Assignments are to be submitted in class on the day they are due. Assignments that come into the Instructors' hands after the end of class will be docked one grade-point (e.g., from a B+ to a B) or 3-1/3 percentage points the first day or part thereof and each day subsequently. Late penalties on papers accompanied by a medical certificate or other proof of a legitimate reason for lateness will be adjusted accordingly. But once the papers submitted on time are graded and returned, *no further papers will be accepted except for very compelling reasons*. No work can be accepted for any reason after the Senate's deadline published in the current *Calendar*.

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" (*Calendar*). This can include

- Copying from another's work without indicating this through *both* the appropriate use of quotation marks *and* citations in footnotes;
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another's work (i.e., extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own); and
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as your own work (e.g., another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a commercial term-paper factory, or materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet).

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and it cannot be dealt with by the Instructors alone. In all cases where plagiarism is suspected, Instructors are now *required* to notify their Chair or Director, who in turn is *required* to report the matter to the Associate Deans of the Faculty. The Associate Deans then conduct a formal investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties can range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work, a final grade of F for the course, suspension from all studies, to expulsion from the University.

The Senate also considers an instructional offence the submission of "*substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors . . . involved*" (*Calendar*).

Passages copied word-for-word without quotation marks, whether the source is cited or not, constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism from internet sources is ridiculously easy to detect.

College of the Humanities
HUMS 1000

LECTURES AND READINGS

FALL TERM 2010

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|----|---------|---|
| 1 | Sept. 9 | Introduction to the course (Profs. MacIsaac and Salmond) |
| 2 | 14 | William Paden, "Myth," in coursepack (Prof. Salmond) |
| 3 | 16 | George Grant, "The Mythic and Modern Consciousness," in coursepack (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 4 | 21 | How to write a university-level essay (Prof. MacIsaac); <i>first assignment due in class</i> |
| | 22 | <i>Last day for course changes</i> |
| 5 | 23 | Ancient Mesopotamia: <i>The Epic of Creation (Enuma Elish)</i> (pp.228-277, in <i>Myths from Mesopotamia</i>) (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 6 | 28 | Ancient Mesopotamia: <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (pp.39-135, in <i>Myths from Mesopotamia</i>) (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 7 | 30 | <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (pp.39-135, in <i>Myths from Mesopotamia</i>) (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 8 | Oct. 5 | Ancient India (Prof. Salmond); <i>rewrite of first assignment due in class</i> |
| 9 | 7 | Rig Veda in coursepack (Prof. Salmond) |
| | 8 | <i>University day: no classes, tutorials, or office hours</i> |
| | 11 | <i>University closed for Thanksgiving</i> |
| 10 | 12 | Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond) |
| 11 | 14 | Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond) |
| 12 | 19 | Upanishads, in Olivelle (Prof. Salmond); <i>second assignment due in class</i> |
| 13 | 21 | Upanishads (Prof. Salmond) |
| 14 | 26 | Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Prof. Salmond) |
| 15 | 28 | Hebrew Bible: Genesis (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 16 | Nov. 2 | Hebrew Bible: Genesis (Prof. MacIsaac); <i>third assignment due in class</i> |
| 17 | 4 | Hebrew Bible: Genesis (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 18 | 9 | Hebrew Bible: Exodus (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 19 | 11 | Hebrew Bible: Exodus (Prof. MacIsaac) |
| 20 | 16 | Hebrew Bible: Exodus (Prof. MacIsaac); <i>fourth assignment due in class</i> |
| 21 | 18 | Hindu Epic (Prof. Salmond) |
| 22 | 23 | Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond) |
| 23 | 25 | Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond) |

College of the Humanities
Humanities Program
HUMS 1000A

- 24 30 Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
25 Dec. 2 Review class
9-22 *Christmas examinations (do not make travel plans within these dates)*

LECTURES AND READINGS

WINTER TERM 2011

- 25 Jan. 4 The Hindu pantheon: Vishnu, *Gita Govinda* (Prof. Salmond)
26 6 *Gita Govinda* (Prof. Salmond)
27 11 Shiva (Prof. Salmond)
28 13 Devi (Prof. Salmond)
29 18 Ancient China (Prof. Salmond)
30 20 *Analects* (Prof. Salmond)
31 25 *Analects* (Prof. Salmond)
32 27 *Analects* (Prof. Salmond); *fifth assignment due in class*
33 Feb. 1 Tao Te Ching (Prof. Salmond)
34 3 Tao Te Ching (Prof. Salmond)
35 8 Hebrew Bible: Historical Books (Prof. Salmond)
36 10 Hebrew Bible: Prophets (Prof. Salmond)
37 15 Hebrew Bible: Song of Songs (Prof. Salmond)
38 17 Hebrew Bible: Song of Songs (Prof. Salmond)
21-25 *Winter Break, classes suspended*
39 Mar. 1 Hebrew Bible: Job (Prof. MacIsaac)
40 3 Hebrew Bible: Job (Prof. MacIsaac)
41 8 *Buddhacarita*, in coursepack (Prof. Salmond)
42 10 The rise of Greece: Homer, *Odyssey* (Prof. MacIsaac)
43 15 Homer, *Odyssey* (Prof. MacIsaac); *sixth assignment due in class*
44 17 Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (Prof. MacIsaac)
45 22 Presocratic philosophy (Prof. MacIsaac)
46 24 Plato, *Phaedrus* (Prof. MacIsaac)
47 29 Plato, *Phaedrus* (Prof. MacIsaac)
48 31 Plato, *Symposium* (Prof. MacIsaac)
49 April 5 Plato, *Symposium* (Prof. MacIsaac)
7-21 *Final examinations*

College of the Humanities
HUMS 1000

SEMINAR SCHEDULE
FALL TERM 2010

1	Sept. 14 - 17	Introductions
2	Sept. 21 - 24	What is Myth
3	Sept. 28 -31	<i>Enuma Elish</i> and <i>Gilgamesh</i>
4	Oct. 5 - 8	<i>Gilgamesh</i>
5	Oct. 12 - 15	Rig Veda
6	Oct. 19 - 22	Upanishads
7	Oct. 26 - 29	Genesis
8	Nov. 2 - 5	Genesis
9	Nov. 9 - 12	Exodus
10	Nov. 16 - 19	Exodus
11	Nov. 23 -26	Bhagavad Gita
12	Nov. 30 - Dec. 3	Bhagavad Gita

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

WINTER TERM 2011

13	Jan. 4 - 7	<i>Gita Govinda</i>
14	Jan. 11- 14	Shiva and Devi
15	Jan. 18 - 21	<i>Analects</i>
16	Jan. 25 - 28	<i>Analects</i>
17	Feb. 1 - 4	Tao Te Ching
18	Feb. 8 - 11	Kings and Prophets
19	Feb. 15 - 18	Song of Songs
20	Mar. 1 - 4	Job
21	Mar. 8 - 11	<i>Buddhacarita</i>
22	Mar. 15 - 18	<i>Odyssey</i>
23	Mar. 22 - 25	<i>Agamemnon</i>
24	Mar. 29 - Apr. 1	<i>Phaedrus</i>

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 can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
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 **DEC. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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 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 your Instructor receives 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: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
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/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library