

COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
HUMS 1000 MYTH AND SYMBOL
2015-16

Prof. Shawna Dolansky
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Office hours: Thurs. 10:30 – 12:00

(or by appointment)

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 2:35-3:55 PA 303

Discussion Groups:

Group 1: Tue. 11:35 - 12:55 (PA 302)

Group 2: Tue. 2:35 - 3:55 (PA 302)

Group 3: Tue. 10:05 - 11:25 (PA 302)

Group 4: Wed. 11:35 - 12:55 (PA 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.

Required Texts:

(available at the University Bookstore)

New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. College Edition. 4th Edition.
New Revised Standard Version. Oxford: OUP, 2010. (Hardback)

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

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

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.

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

Confucius: The Essential Analects: Selected Passages with Traditional Commentary, trans. Edward Slingerland, Indianapolis: Hackett, 2006.

Humanities 1000 Course Pack (2015-2016)

Grades for the course will be based on

1) Participation in the discussion groups includes attendance, contribution, and bringing a prepared question on the readings to every session for a total of 15%. There will be two "Learning Cells" each semester; the format will be described in class. Please note that bringing the primary text of the week to the discussion seminar is your ticket of admission.

2) Leading two discussions (one each term) in the tutorial sessions. 5%

3) Four written assignments, worth a total of 50%, distributed as follows:

First Semester:

- (1) 1 page in length (5%)
- (2) 2-3 pages in length (10%)
- (3) 5-6 pages in length (15%)

Second Semester:

- (4) 8-10 pages in length (20%)

4) A three-hour Christmas examination during the formal examination period, December 9-21, worth 15%

5) A three-hour final examination during the formal examination period, April 11-23, worth 15%.

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.

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.

**HUMS 1000 Myth and Symbol
Lectures Fall, 2015**

		Seminars
Wed. Sept. 2	Intro (Profs. Dolansky and Salmond)	(no seminars)
Fri. Sept. 4	The Humanities Program (Prof. Geoff Kellow) READ: Paden “Myth” (Coursepack)	
		Introductions
Wed. Sept. 9	The nature of myth (Prof. Salmond) READ: Bruce Lincoln, “Myth, sentiment . . .” (Coursepack)	
Mon. Sept. 14	Anishinaabe Myth (Prof. Salmond) READ: see cuLearn	
		Myth
Wed. Sept. 16	Anishinaabe Myth (Prof. Salmond) [First paper due] READ: see cuLearn	
Mon. Sept. 21	Anishinaabe Myth (Prof. Salmond) READ: see cuLearn	
		Indigenous Myth
Wed. Sept. 23	Anishinaabe Myth (Prof. Salmond) READ: see cuLearn	
Mon. Sept. 28	Intro to Mesopotamia Enuma Elish (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Dalley Introduction, pp. 1-8 and pp. 228-232	
		Enuma Elish
Wed. Sept. 30	Enuma Elish (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Dalley pp. 233-277	
Mon. Oct. 5	Gilgamesh (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Dalley pp. 39-109	
		Gilgamesh
Wed. Oct. 7	Gilgamesh (Prof. Dolansky) [Second paper due] READ: Dalley pp. 110-153	
Mon. Oct. 12	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS	
		Gilgamesh
Wed. Oct. 14	Intro to Ancient India (Prof. Salmond) READ: Olivelle, <i>Upanisads</i> pp. xxiii-xxix; xli-xlix	
Mon. Oct. 19	Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond) READ: Vedic hymns (Coursepack)	

		Rig Veda
Wed. Oct. 21	Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond) READ: Vedic hymns (Coursepack)	
Mon. Oct. 26	BREAK WEEK	
Wed. Oct. 28	BREAK WEEK	
Mon. Nov. 2	Intro to Bible (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Oxford Annotated Bible "Introduction to the Pentateuch"; "Introduction to Genesis"; "Canons of the Bible"	
Wed. Nov. 4	Genesis 1 (Prof. Dolansky)	Genesis
Mon. Nov. 9	READ: Genesis 1 Genesis 2 and 3 (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Genesis 2 and 3	
Wed. Nov. 11	Genesis 4-11 (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Gen 4-11 pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bible/flood.html	Genesis
Mon. Nov. 16	Genesis 12-50 (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Gen 12-50	
Wed. Nov. 18	Upanisads (Prof. Salmond) READ: Brhadaranyaka and Chandogya (see handout)	Upanisads
Mon. Nov. 23	Upanisads (Prof. Salmond) READ: later Upanisads (see handout)	
Wed. Nov. 25	Upanisads (Prof. Salmond) READ: (see handout)	Upanisads
Mon. Nov. 30	Exodus 1-19 (Prof. Dolansky) READ: Exodus 1-19	Exodus
Wed. Dec. 2	Exodus 20-40 (Prof. Dolansky) [Final paper due] READ: Exodus 20-40	
Mon. Dec. 7	Exam Review (Profs. Salmond and Dolansky)	

[Dec. 9 - 21 Examination Period] *(Do not make travel plans within these dates)*

**HUMS 1000 Seminars
Fall, 2015**

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|-----|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Sept. 8 – 9 | Intros | |
| 2. | Sept. 15 - 16 | Myth | |
| 3. | Sept. 22 - 23 | Indigenous myth | |
| 4. | Sept. 29 - 30 | Enuma Elish | |
| 5. | Oct. 6 - 7 | Gilgamesh | |
| 6. | Oct. 13 - 14 | Gilgamesh | (Learning Cell) |
| 7. | Oct. 20 -21 | Rig Veda | |
| | [Oct. 27 – 28 | BREAK WEEK] | |
| 8. | Nov. 3 - 4 | Genesis | |
| 9. | Nov. 10 - 11 | Genesis | |
| 10. | Nov. 17 - 18 | Upanisads | |
| 11. | Nov. 24 – 25 | Upanisads | (Learning Cell) |
| 12. | Dec. 1 - 2 | Exodus | |

Winter Semester schedule TBA

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. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

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 **Nov. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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