

## Anthropology 3G03 Comparative Mythology

Instructor: Dr. Colarusso, 532 CNH, extension 23902, [colarusso@mcmaster.ca](mailto:colarusso@mcmaster.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2G03 or permission of the instructor

### Objectives:

- To provide the student with the skills to recognize material in one culture or myth that is historically related to material in another;
- To provide the student with the tools for peering back in time and retrieving the basic form of ancient myth and religious belief using “cognate” materials.

### Texts:

Jaen Puhvel (1987) *Comparative Mythology*. The University of Chicago Press.

John Colarusso (2002) *Nart Sagas from the Caucasus*, Princeton. (Paperback edition)

John Colarusso (1998) *Readings in Comparative Mythology*, Custom Courseware “pack”

John Colarusso (2010) *Comparative Mythology Lecture Notes*

Grades: 33.3% first examination, 33.3% second examination, 33.3% final examination.  
Tests are cumulative in content.

NOTE: **ALL** examinations are open book.

### Topical Outline:

(1) Introduction: the study of myth, comparison of myths, the Indo-Europeans (coursepack)(1 week)

(2) India and Iran: Vedic India, Indian epics, Ancient (Zoroastrian) Iran, Iranian epics (Puhvel, chapters 3-7) (4 weeks)

first exam (early-February)

(3) Marginal traditions: Hittites, the Nart sagas of the Caucasus (*Comparative Mythology* course pack, and Colarusso (2002)) (2 weeks)

(4) Ancient Greece: Hellenic and Helladic components of Greek myth, (Puhvel, chapter 8) (1 week)

(5) Roman myth and history (Puhvel, chapter 9) (1 week)

second exam (early March)

(6) Celtic myth (Puhvel, chapter 10) (1 week)

(7) Germanic myth (Puhvel, chapter 11) (1 week)

(8) Baltic and Slavic Myth (Puhvel, chapter 12) (1 week)

(9) Review and selected case study (1 week)

**The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained. (*Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide*)
  2. Improper collaboration in group work. (*Insert specific course information*)
  3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
- (*If applicable*) In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

### **FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

\*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

### **MSAF**

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
  - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
  - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.
  - The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
  - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: [http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests\\_for\\_Relief\\_for\\_Missed\\_Academic\\_Term\\_Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work)

### **AODA**

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email [furtam1@mcmaster.ca](mailto:furtam1@mcmaster.ca)

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