

# ANTHROPOLOGY 3G03 COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY

## Winter 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. John Colarusso  
**Email:** colaruss@mcmaster.ca  
**Lecture:** Monday & Thursday @  
12:30pm and Tuesday @ 1:30pm

**Office:** CNH 532  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

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## **Course Description**

The reconstruction of lost mythic traditions by means of comparative techniques drawn from historical linguistics. The Indo-European traditions of Eurasia will be examined.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- 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

## **Required Materials and Texts (available from bookstore)**

- Jaan Puhvel (1987) *Comparative Mythology*. Johns-Hopkins Press.
- John Colarusso (2002) *Nart Sagas from the Caucasus*, Princeton. (Paperback edition)
- John Colarusso (1998) *Readings in Comparative Mythology*, Custom Courseware “pack”
- **Optional but strongly recommended:** John Colarusso (2010) *Comparative Mythology Lecture Notes*

## **Class Format**

The course will be taught in person (Monday 12:30, Tuesday 1:30, Thursday 12:30, in BSB 120). Lecture recordings will be posted weekly. Please refer to Colarusso (2010) for lecture notes throughout the course or view the Echo 360 transcripts.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Exam 1 - 25%, February 3rd
2. Exam 2 – 25%, March 3rd
3. Exam 3 – 25%, March 17th
4. Exam 4 – 25%, April 4th

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Exam 1 (25%), February 3rd**

Test will be delivered online in Avenue to Learn at 12:30pm (EST)

### **Exam 2 (25%), March 3rd**

Test will be delivered online in Avenue to Learn at 12:30pm (EST)

### **Exam 3 (25%), March 17th**

Test will be delivered online in Avenue to Learn at 12:30pm (EST)

### **Exam 4 (25%), April 4th**

Test will be delivered online in Avenue to Learn at 12:30pm (EST)

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (January 10-14)**

**India: Vedic India, Indian epics**

Readings: Puhvel - Chapters 3, 4, 5

### **Week 2 (January 17-21)**

**India: Vedic India, Indian epics (continued)**

Readings: Puhvel - Chapters 3, 4, 5

### **Week 3 (January 24-28)**

**Iran: Ancient (Zoroastrian) Iran, Iranian epics**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapters 6 & 7

### **Week 4 (January 31-February 4)**

**Iran: Ancient (Zoroastrian) Iran, Iranian epics**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapters 6 & 7

**Exam #1 on Feb. 3rd**

### **Week 5 (February 7-11)**

**Marginal traditions: Hittites, the Nart sagas of the Caucasus**

Readings: *Comparative Mythology course pack*, and Colarusso (2002)

### **Week 6 (February 14-18)**

**Marginal traditions: Hittites, the Nart sagas of the Caucasus**

Readings: *Comparative Mythology course pack*, and Colarusso (2002)

### **Week 7 (February 21-25)**

Reading Week

### **Week 8 (February 28-March 4)**

**Ancient Greece: Hellenic and Helladic components of Greek myth**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapter 8

**Exam #2 on March 3rd**

### **Week 9 (March 7-11)**

**Roman Myth and History**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapter 9

### **Week 10 (March 14-18)**

**Celtic Myth**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapter 10

**Exam #3 on March 17th**

**Week 11 (March 21-25)**

**Germanic Myth**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapter 11

**Week 12 (March 28-April 1)**

**Baltic and Slavic Myth**

Readings: Puhvel – Chapter 12

**Week 13 (April 4-8)**

**Exam #4 on April 4**

**Week 14 (April 11-14)**

**No Class**

**Course Policies**

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

**Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

**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)

## **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **University Policies**

### **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.

### **Privacy Protection**

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

### **Course Modification**

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

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responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## ADVISORY STATEMENTS

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### ONLINE PROCTORING

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.



## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.