

READINGS IN INDO-EUROPEAN MYTH

ANTHROPOLOGY 2G03, WINTER 2020

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 2:30 to 3:20 pm

Togo Salmon Hall, Room B128

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Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 11:00 am or by appointment

Prerequisites: Registration in Level II or above in any program.

Description: In this course, we'll examine Indo-European mythology, placing a particular emphasis on the principal gods and themes featured in known and well-documented narratives from a selection of ancient civilizations. Our survey features a selection of cultural traditions from Ancient Greece, India, Scandinavia, and the Celtic world. For comparative purposes, we'll look at the mythology of Ancient Egypt as well.

Course objectives: To acquaint the student with the major gods and themes in the myths of the Indo-European peoples of Europe and Asia.

Textbooks:

Greek Mythology:

Matyszak, Philip

2010 *The Greek and Roman Myths: a Guide to the Classical Stories.* Thames and Hudson, London. ISBN 10: 0500251738/ ISBN 13: 9780500251737

Celtic Mythology:

Aldhouse-Green, Miranda

2015 *The Celtic Myths: A Guide to the Ancient Gods and Legends.* Thames and Hudson, London. ISBN-10: 9780500252093/ISBN-13: 978-0500252093

Norse Mythology:

Larrington, Carolyn

2017 *The Norse Myth: A Guide to Viking and Scandinavian Gods and Heroes.* Thames and Hudson, London. ISBN-10: 0500251967/ ISBN-13: 978-0500251966

Indian Mythology:

Doniger, Wendy (editor and translator)

2005 *The Rig Veda.* Penguin Books, London. ISBN-10: 9780140449891/ ISBN-13: 978-0140449891

Egyptian Mythology:

Shaw, Garry W.

2014 *The Egyptian Myths: A Guide to the Ancient Gods and Legends.* Thames and Hudson, London. ISBN-10: 0500251983/ ISBN-13: 979-0500251989

A list of suggested readings is presented below. These works expand on the topics explored in the lectures and the class readings. Although not mandatory, you are encouraged to consult them if you want to find out more on a particular topic or topics presented and discussed during the course:

Beckwith, Christopher I.

2009 *Empires of the Silk Road: a History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present.* Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

Cunliffe, Barry

2018 *The Ancient Celts.* Second edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York.

Edmunds, Lowell (editor)

2014 [1990] *Approaches to Greek Myth.* Second edition. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Hansen, William

2005 *Classical Mythology: A Guide to the Mythical World of the Greeks and the Romans*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Kemp, Barry J.

2018 *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization*. Third edition. Routledge, London and New York.

Leeming, David A.

2018 *The World of Myth*. Third edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

López–Ruiz, Carolina

2017 *Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: A Sourcebook of Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern Myths in Translation*. Second edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Sawyer, Peter (editor)

2001 [1999] *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Vikings*. Paperback reissue. Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York.

Stoneman, Richard

2019 *The Greek Experience of India: From Alexander to the Indo-Greeks*. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.

Various Authors

2014 *Les Celtes: Origine, Histoire, Héritage*. *Cahiers de Science et Vie* 146.

2014a *L'Origine des Mythes: Pourquoi l'Humanité Partage les Mêmes Histoires*. *Cahiers de Science et Vie* 147.

Vernant, Jean–Pierre

1990 *Mythe et Religion en Grèce Ancienne*. La Librairie du XXI^e Siècle. Seuil, Paris.
EAN 9782020104890

2002 *L'univers, les dieux, les hommes: Vernant raconte les mythes*. La Librairie du XXI^e Siècle. Seuil, Paris.

Wells, Peter S.

2001 *Beyond Celts, Germans, and Scythians: Archaeology and Identity in Iron Age Europe*. *Duckworth Debates in Archaeology*. Duckworth, London.

West, M.L.

2008 *Indo European Poetry and Myth*. Paperback edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Grades

There will be three non-cumulative tests over the course of the term, plus a final exam scheduled for the examination period (April 13th to April 28th). All tests and the final exam are multiple-choice. Each is worth 25 % of the total mark. The exams will be administered during class hours.

Class Program

January 6th to January 15th/17th

1. Introduction: What is a myth? What is mythology?
2. What is Indo-European Mythology?

(Last day for enrolment and course changes: January 14th 2020).

January 15th/17th to January 29th 2019

3. Greek Mythology, part 1 (assigned chapters in Matyszak 2010).

January 31: First Test

February 3rd to February 15th 2019

4. Greek Mythology, part 2 (assigned chapters in Matyszak 2010).

February 17th to February 23rd: Midterm recess.

February 24th to March 6th

5. Celtic Mythology (assigned chapters in Aldhouse-Green 2015).

February 28th: Second test

March 9th to March 13th

6. Scandinavian Mythology (assigned chapters in Larrington 2017)

Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default: March 13th.

March 16th to March 23rd

7. Indian Mythology (assigned chapters in Pattanaik 2014).

March 25th to April 3rd

8. Egyptian Mythology (assigned chapters in Shaw 2014).

March 30th: Third Test

April 7th

9. Last class: Why is ancient myth relevant today?

Final exam period: April 13th to April 28th

Deferred examinations: June 22nd to June 25th.

Disclaimer

Students: please note that 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, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

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.)

REQUEST FOR LATE WITHDRAWAL

Students may **request a Late Withdrawal**, without **petition**, no later than the last day of classes in the relevant Term. However, it is important to note that: **Requests for Late Withdrawal** cannot be made in courses for which the final exam (or equivalent) has been attempted or completed.

McMaster University provides a Late Withdrawal option to assist students who have become irretrievably behind in a course. Students who have fallen behind with assignments and/or are not prepared to write final examinations (or equivalent) in one or more courses are encouraged to make use of this option and must contact their Academic Advisor in the Faculty/Program Office. Students will work with their Academic Advisor to discuss the situation and what steps they can take to prevent a recurrence.

The maximum number of units for which students may request a Late Withdrawal is 18 units throughout their undergraduate degree.

Students may request a Late Withdrawal, without petition, no later than the last day of classes in the relevant Term. However, it is important to note that:

- Requests for Late Withdrawal cannot be made in courses for which the final exam (or equivalent) has been attempted or completed. This also includes courses where a final grade has been assigned (e.g. clinical courses).

- Such requests will be cancelled or revoked if it is determined that the student attempted or completed the final exam (or equivalent).
- Students cannot use the Late Withdrawal option for courses in which they are under investigation or for which they have been found guilty of academic dishonesty.

Course(s) approved for Late Withdrawal will be:

- Assigned a non-numeric grade of LWD, in lieu of an alpha/numerical grade
- Excluded from the calculation of the GPA
- Ineligible for tuition refund

Approval of a late withdrawal is final, and requests to be re-enrolled in the withdrawn course(s) will not be considered. A withdrawal will not preclude students from enrolling in the course(s) in a subsequent term.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905- 525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

McMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM (MSAF) POLICY

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". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean's office. http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#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 requiring a RISO accommodation 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.

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