

Anthropology 2G03 Readings in Indo-European Myth, 2015

Instructor: Dr. John Colarusso, 532 CNH, ext. 23902, <colarus@mcmaster.ca>

Prerequisites: 3 units of level one Anthropology

Three hours of lecture each week.

Objective: To acquaint the student with the major gods and themes in the myths of the Indo-European peoples of Europe and Asia. These people all share languages that are descended from a prehistoric mother language, Proto-Indo-European. Their myths are well documented and show many inherited features.

Texts:

Hansen, William *Classical Mythology*, Oxford [This is the text for Greek myth.]

Frank Delaney *Legends of the Celts*. Harper Collins [now a course pack]

Kevin Crossley-Holland *The Norse Myths*. Penguin

Wendy O'Flaherty *The Rig Veda*. Penguin

Colarusso, John *Lecture Notes for Anthropology 2G03, Readings in Indo-European Myth*

Books for further interest:

James Bailey and Tatyana Ivanova *An Anthology of Russian Folk Epics*. M. E. Sharpe.

Tacitus *The Germania and Agricola*. Penguin

H. R. Ellis Davidson *Gods and Myths of Northern Europe*. Penguin

Jeffrey Gantz, *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*. Penguin

Thomas Kinsella (1969) *The Tain*. Oxford.

Jeffrey Gantz, *The Mabinogion*. Penguin

Sir Thomas Malory (1979) *Le morte d'Arthur*. Penguin.

Richard P. Martin, (2003), *Myths of the Ancient Greeks*. Penguin Putnam.

Hamilton, Edith *Mythology*. Penguin [This is a text for Greek myth.]

Wendy O'Flaherty (1975) *Hindu Myths*. Penguin.

John Colarusso (2002) *Nart Sagas from the Caucasus: Myths of the Circassians, Abazas, Abkhaz, and Ubykhs*. Princeton University Press.

Walter Beltz *God and the Gods*. Penguin

Alan Dundes (ed.) *Sacred Narrative*. University of California Press

David Adams Leeming *The World of Myth*. Oxford

C. Scott Littleton *The New Comparative Mythology*. University of California Press

C. Scott Littleton and Linda Malcor *From Scythia to Camelot*. Garland

J. P. Mallory *In Search of the Indo-Europeans*. Thames and Hudson.

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

Grades:

- These are based entirely upon four one hour examinations (25% each).
- The examinations will follow each of the five myth traditions (corpora).
- Each examination will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and will be electronically scanned.
- Examinations will be held in the course room at the hour of Thursday, 1:30.
- Each examination is open book, that is, you may bring the source book for that body of myth on the test, for example, Delaney for Irish, O'Flaherty for Ancient India.
- You may NOT bring the course pack (by Colarusso) of lecture notes.
- The last examination is scheduled by the Registrar's office. It is not cumulative, but only on the *Rig Veda*.

Topical Outline:

(1) Introduction: the nature of myth, Eurasian myth, the Indo-Europeans, the Finno-Ugrians, the Semitic peoples, China and the Far East (one week)

(2) Celtic myth (Delaney - course pack)(three weeks)

- Test on Irish lore, early October.

(3) Germanic myth (Crossley-Holland) (three weeks)

- Test on Germanic myth, late October.

(4) Ancient Greece (Graves) (three weeks)

- Test on Greek myth, mid to late November

(5) India, the *Rig Veda* (O'Flaherty)(two weeks)

- Test on *Rig Veda* will be scheduled for examination period.

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)

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

The University recognizes that students periodically require relief from academic work for medical or other personal situations. This academic regulation aims to manage these requests by taking into account the needs and obligations of students, instructors and administrators. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course. Any concerns regarding the granting of relief should be directed to the respective Faculty Office. Requests for relief should be made with a commitment to academic integrity in mind. Requests that deviate from this commitment will be handled under

the Academic Integrity Policy and Student Code of Conduct, where appropriate.

1. Relief for missed academic work worth less than 25% of the final grade resulting from medical or personal situations lasting up to three calendar days:

- Use the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) on-line self-reporting tool. No further documentation is required.
- Students may submit requests for relief using the MSAF once per term.
- 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 the opportunity for relief.
- The MSAF cannot be used to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday.
- The MSAF cannot be used for academic work that has already been completed/ attempted.
- An MSAF applies only to work that is due within the period for which the MSAF applies, i.e. the 3-day period that is specified in the MSAF; however, all work due in that period can be covered by one MSAF.
- The MSAF cannot be used to apply for relief for any final examination or its equivalent. See *Petitions for Special Consideration* above.

2. For medical or personal situations lasting more than three calendar days, and/or for missed academic work worth 25% or more of the final grade, and/or for any request for relief in a term where the MSAF has been used previously in that term:

- Students must report to their Faculty Office to discuss their situation and will be required to provide appropriate **supporting documentation** (see *Documentation Requirements* below).
- If warranted, the Faculty Office will approve the absence, and the instructor will determine appropriate relief.

Documentation Requirements

If the reason for a request for relief is medical, the approved *McMaster University Medical Form* covering the relevant dates must be submitted. The student must be seen by a doctor at the earliest possible date, normally on or before the date of the missed work and the doctor must verify the duration of the illness.

If the reason is non-medical, appropriate documentation with verifiable origin covering the relevant dates must be submitted, normally within three working days.

In some circumstances, students may be advised to submit a Petition for Special Consideration (Form A) seeking relief for missed academic work. In deciding whether or not to grant a petition, adequacy of the supporting documentation, including the timing in relation to the due date of the missed work and the degree of the student's incapacitation, may be taken into account. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.

In some circumstances, students may be advised to submit a Petition for Special Consideration (Form A) seeking relief for missed academic work. In deciding whether or not to grant a petition, adequacy of the supporting documentation, including the timing in relation to the due date of the missed work and the degree of the student's incapacitation, may be taken into account. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.

If the petition is approved, the Faculty Office will notify the instructor(s) recommending relief. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.