

HUMS 1000
MYTH AND SYMBOL

2011-12

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This course engages primary sources -- primarily religious and primarily from the axial age civilizations of the ancient world. In examining these texts we probe fundamental elements of human consciousness: the morphology and function of the mythic and symbolic in human thought, imagination, and ritual practice. Themes include cosmogony, theogony, theophany, theodicy, sacrifice, the production of history, sacred and profane love, and the hero's quest.

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.

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:35-12:55 in Paterson Hall 303

Discussion Groups:

Group 1: Fridays 2:35-3:55 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 2: Fridays 8:35-9:55 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 3: Tuesdays 12:55-2:25 (Paterson Hall 302)

Group 4: Thursdays 4:05-5:25 (Paterson Hall 302)

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.

O'Flaherty, Wendy Doniger. *Hindu Myths*. London: Penguin, 1975.

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

Confucius: The Analects, trans. D.C. Lau, London: Penguin, 1979

Required Texts, Both Terms:

Humanities 1000 Course Pack (2011-2012)

Grades for the course will be based on

- 1) Participation in the discussion groups, including leading two discussions (one each term), for a total of 15%;
- 2) Seven written assignments, worth a total of 60%, distributed as follows:

First Semester:

- (1) 1 page in length (250 words).
- (2) re-submission of (1) with corrections having duly been made.
- (3) 2 pages in length (500 words).
- (4) 3 pages in length (750 words).
- (5) 4 pages in length (1000 words).

In order to reward improvement, the grade for these assignments will be the average of the top three grades received. This will constitute 30% of the grade for the course.

Second Semester:

Two written assignments, each worth 15% (total 30%)

- (6) 5-6 pages in length.
 - (7) 7-8 pages in length.
- 3) A three-hour Christmas examination in the formal examination period, December 8-21, worth 10%; and
 - 4) A three-hour final examination in the formal examination period, April 11-24, 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. Failure to complete all the written assignments and sit the Christmas examination unless excused will result in the grade FND (Failed, No Deferral). FND will also be awarded to students whose grades on all the course work exclusive of the final examination are such that they cannot pass the course no matter how well they might do on the final examination.

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

Thur. Sept. 8 Introduction to the course (Profs. Dolansky and Salmond)

Tue. Sept. 13 What is Myth? William Paden chapter (Prof. Salmond)
Assignment #1 Due

READ: Paden "Myth" (Coursepack)

Thur. Sept. 15 Cosmogony and Cosmology (Prof. Salmond)

READ: Grant "The Mythic and Modern Consciousness," and ANET "The Repulsing of the Dragon and the Creation" (Coursepack); and Dalley - Introduction, pp. 1-8, and pp. 228-232

Tue. Sept. 20 Intro to Ancient Mesopotamia and Enuma Elish (Prof. Dolansky)

READ: Dalley pp. 233-277

Thur. Sept. 22 Enuma Elish (Prof. Dolansky)

- READ: Dalley pp. 39-109
- Tue. Sept. 27 Gilgamesh (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Dalley pp. 110-153
- Thur. Sept. 29 Gilgamesh (Prof. Salmond)
Assignment #2 Due
- Tue. Oct. 4 Intro to Ancient India. Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Oct. 6 Rig Veda (Prof. Salmond)
- [Fri. Oct. 7 University day – no classes]
[Mon. Oct. 10 Thanksgiving]
- Tue. Oct. 11 Upanisads (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Oct. 13 Upanisads (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Oct. 18 Intro to the Bible (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Oxford Annotated Bible: “Introduction to the Pentateuch”;
“Introduction to Genesis”; “The Canons of the Bible” (one of the sections
at the back)
- Thur. Oct. 20 Genesis 1 (Prof. Dolansky)
Assignment #3 Due
- READ: Genesis 1
- Tue. Oct. 25 Genesis 2 and 3 (Prof. Dolansky)
- READ: Genesis 2 and 3
- Thur. Oct. 27 Genesis 4-11 (Prof. Dolansky)
- READ: Gen 4-11; and pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bible/flood.html
- Tue. Nov. 1 Intro to Indian Epic. Mahabharata (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Nov. 3 Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Nov. 8 Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Nov. 10 Bhagavad Gita (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Nov. 15 Genesis: Matriarchs and Patriarchs (Prof. Dolansky)

READ: Gen 12-38

Thur. Nov. 17 Genesis (Prof. Dolansky)
Assignment #4 Due

READ: Gen 39-50

Tue. Nov. 22 Exodus (Prof. Dolansky)

READ: Exodus 1-18

Thur. Nov. 24 Exodus (Prof. Dolansky)

READ: Exodus 19-40; and Gita Govinda preface and introduction

Tue. Nov. 28 Gita Govinda (Prof. Salmond)

Thur. Dec. 1 Gita Govinda (Prof. Salmond)

Mon. Dec. 5 *Assignment #5 Due*

[Dec. 8 - 21 Examination Period] (*Do not make travel plans within these dates*)

**HUMS 1000 Seminars
Fall Semester, 2011**

1. Sept. 13 – 16 Myth
2. Sept. 20 - 23 Enuma Elish
3. Sept. 27 - 30 Gilgamesh
4. Oct. 4 - 7 Rig Veda
5. Oct. 11 - 14 Upanisads
6. Oct. 18 - 21 Genesis 1
7. Oct. 25 -28 Primeval history
8. Nov. 1 - 4 Bhagavad Gita
9. Nov. 8 - 11 Bhagavad Gita
10. Nov. 15 - 18 Genesis Patriarchal Narrative

11. Nov. 22 - 25 Exodus
12. Nov. 28 - Dec. 2 Gita Govinda

**HUMS 1000 Lectures
Winter, 2012**

- Thur. Jan. 5 Biblical Religion: Leviticus (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Lev 1, 6-7, 10-20, 22, 25
- Tue. Jan. 10 Biblical Religion: Deuteronomy (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Deut 1-7, 10-14, 17-18, 22, 26-32
- Thur. Jan. 12 Archaeology and the Bible (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: "Pagan Yahwism" pdf; and 1 Samuel (Bible)
- Tue. Jan. 17 I and II Samuel (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: 2 Samuel
- Thur. Jan. 19 Kings (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: 1 Kings (all); 2 Kings 1-10, 17-25
- Tue. Jan. 24 The Hindu Pantheon (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Jan. 26 Siva (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Jan. 31 Devi (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Feb. 2 Devi (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Feb. 7 Buddhacarita (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Feb. 9 Buddhacarita (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Feb. 14 Intro to the Prophets: Isaiah (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Isa 1-11, 36-40, 42, 45, 48-53, 59-63, 65-66
- Thur. Feb. 16 Jeremiah (Prof. Dolansky)
READ: Jer 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 19-21, 23, 25-30, 36-45

- Tue. Feb. 21 BREAK WEEK
- Thur. Feb. 23 BREAK WEEK
- Tue. Feb. 28 Ezekiel and Jonah (Prof. Dolansky)
 READ: Ezek 1-5, 18, 23, 37; Jonah (all)
- Thur. Mar. 1 Intro to Ancient China (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Mar. 6 Confucius Analects (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Mar. 8 Confucius Analects (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Mar. 13 Tao Te Ching (Prof. Salmond)
- Thur. Mar. 15 Tao Te Ching (Prof. Salmond)
- Tue. Mar. 20 Song of Songs (Prof. Salmond)
 READ: Song of Songs
- Thur. Mar. 22 Song of Songs (Prof. Dolansky)
 READ: “Egyptian Love Songs” (ANET pp. 467-9) pdf; “Sumerian Sacred
 Marriage Texts” (ANET pp. 640-645) pdf
- Tue. Mar. 27 Intro to the Wisdom literature: Proverbs (Prof. Dolansky)
 READ: Proverbs 1-10, 22-23; “The Instruction of Amenopet,” and
 “Assyrian Proverbs and Counsels” (ANET pp. 421-427) pdf
- Thur. Mar. 29 Ecclesiastes (Prof. Dolansky)
 READ: Ecclesiastes (all); “A Dispute Over Suicide” (ANET 405-6) pdf
- Tue. Apr. 2 Job (Prof. Dolansky)
 READ: Job (all)
- Thur. Apr. 4 Job (Profs. Dolansky and Salmond)

[Fri. Apr. 5 last day of classes]

[April 11 - 24 Examination Period] (*do not make travel plans within these dates*)

**HUMS 1000 Seminars
Winter, 2012**

1. Jan. 10 – 13 Leviticus and Deuteronomy
2. Jan. 17 - 20 Kingship in Samuel and Kings
3. Jan. 24 - 27 Siva
4. Jan. 31 - Feb. 3 Devi
5. Feb. 7 - Feb. 10 Buddhacarita
6. Feb. 14 - 17 Isaiah
- [Feb. 21 - 24 BREAK]
7. Feb. 28 – Mar. 2 Jeremiah and Ezekiel
8. Mar. 6 - 9 Analects
9. Mar. 13 - 16 Tao Te Ching
10. Mar. 20 - 23 Song of Songs
11. Mar. 27 - 30 Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
12. Apr. 2 - 5 Job