

This course will use **Canvas** for tests, course materials, and grade management. **No late work is accepted!**

REL 207 Ritual, Symbol, and Myth

Course Syllabus, ASU, Fall 2024 Semester, Session A, 100% online, 3 credit hours

Post assignments by 11.59pm Thursdays/Canvas

73062 and 73063/ Aug 22 to Oct 11

Instructor: Dr. Janet Carleton

***Email:** janet.carleton@asu.edu

Email Communication

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.* For help with your email go to: MyASU > Service > Live Chat OR New Ticket.

This course is offered by the [College of Integrative Sciences and Arts](#). For more information about the college, visit our website: cisa.asu.edu/ . If you have questions or concerns about this course, please speak with your instructor. If your instructor is unable to address your concerns, please send your inquiry to cisa@asu.edu.

No textbook is required for this class. All reading materials are provided via the Canvas course.

Suggested text: *Anatomy of the Sacred*, 6th edition. James Livingston. **It's not required, it's optional.**

For a 3 credit hour course, you should plan to spend at least 135 hours on course content and student work. For a seven-week session (such as you chose) you should budget approximately 19-20 hours a week to read the course content on Canvas and to complete the homework, quizzes, discussions and writing assignments. Remember, this is simply an estimate. Some students work quickly and efficiently. Some require a more deliberative pace.

Official REL 207 Course Description: Introduction to the academic study of religion through the study of myths, symbols, and rituals. Includes methods and theories used by scholars to study the complex subject of religion. Attention to literate and nonliterate cultures.

Official Course Competencies/Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Assess the problematic aspects of defining religion and differentiate between various types of scholarly definitions. (I)
2. Describe the broad features and functions of religion and the academic arguments regarding the origins of religion. (II)
3. Compare the reasons for and approaches to the investigation of religion. (III)
4. Critically examine the use of the term sacred and identify its cultural manifestations in space, time, people and objects. (IV)
5. Examine the differences between types of symbols and the patterns and significance of archetypes. (V)
6. Examine the different approaches to study myth and parse significant patterns in cosmogonist and archetypal myths with attention to literate and nonliterate cultures. (VI)
7. Explain the purposes and stages of ritual and investigate individual, social, and specialized types of ritual. (VII)
8. Investigate how religious attitudes and expressions can be found in phenomena that do not appear religious. (VIII)

-

Evaluation (all due dates are listed in Canvas—go through the Modules link):

<i>Quizzes:</i>	2 quizzes @100 pts each	
1 quiz @ 48 pts		1 quiz @ 72 pts
= up to 320 pts		
	Dystopia quiz	= up to 10 pts
Creation quiz	= up to 30 pts	
	Zeitgeist quiz	= up to 5 pts
	Definition quiz	= up to 5 pts
<i>Film Responses:</i>	4 assignments @ 15 pts each	= up to 60 pts
	JCamp, DvlPly, Se7en	
	Dyst paper	

Research elements: claim char @ 5, APA resources @ 25 = up to 30 pts

Projects and papers: Archetype Powerpoint = up to 50 pts

Pilgrimage Paper = up to 20 pts

4 Horsemen upload = up to 20 pts

Class discussions Intro disc = up to 10 pts

Padlet/features = up to 5 pts

Function discussion = up to 10 pts

Sacred people disc = up to 10 pts

Problem of evil = up to 5 pts

Padlet/Symbol = up to 1 pt

Inside Story disc = up to 5 pts

Urban Legends = up to 15 pts

Padlet/Utopia = up to 5 pts

Total: up to 605 pts

Grades: you must attain **OVER** 60, 70, 80, or 90 percent—I **DO NOT** round up. I assign grades by points earned. If you are off by one point, you are still in a different category... ASU does include + and - to your grade based on points earned.

OVER 90 -100% = **A** 80-89% = **B** 70-79% = **C** 60-69% = **D** 50-59% = **F**

No Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed

In this class, all work submitted must be your own. The use of generative AI tools will be considered academic misconduct (see Administrative Regulation 2.3.11 1.B(b)) and will be treated as such. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool, please contact the instructor (me!) for further clarification before using the tool or website. The writing assignments are fairly informal and require your interaction with material so there's no reason to bother with generating crap and insulting all of us. Your regular, informal voice is welcomed.

Grade Appeals

Students must first speak with the instructor of the class to discuss any disputed grades. If, after review, a resolution is not achieved students may proceed with the appeal process. Student grade appeals must be processed in the regular semester immediately following the issuance of the grade in dispute (by commencement for fall or spring), regardless whether the student is enrolled at the university. Complete details are available in the [ASU Grade Appeals policy](#).

Quizzes: There are 4 quizzes during the semester and one dept. final. The first 2 quizzes will include 25 multiple choice questions (worth 100 points total). The 3rd quiz is 12 questions for 48 pts and the 4th has 18 questions for 72 pts. You will have a limited amount of time to take the quizzes through Canvas. You can use any computer but check your browsers. The exact day and time each quiz will close is listed on Canvas. Do not leave the quiz until the last minute in case your computer locks up or wifi fails and you miss the deadline. If you go over the time allotted, Canvas submits your test at the time limit whether you finish it or not. There are also quizzes that you must take on the Creation and Dystopia stories and other items to ensure you've done the reading.

Coursework: There will be 1 project with a few moving parts, the archetype project—instructions are in Canvas. You should look ahead to this project and it's parts to ensure that you can finish them by the due dates. You will also write response papers to prompts that I provide you (after you watch films/documentaries provided) and some of those may include a discussion assignment where you interact with classmates. Additionally, there are some Padlet assignments that hopefully allow your interaction with other students to be more creative. You should access the materials by using the Modules link to the left in Canvas. **Except for the proof of life quiz, all due dates will be Thursdays.**

Behavior: There will be differences of opinion in this class and you will listen to and consider them. This is college. Be respectful and realize that if you are not uncomfortable, you aren't learning anything. You will avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom. This is not an exhaustive list of behaviors; rather, it represents examples of the types of things that can have a dramatic impact on the class environment. Your final grade may be reduced by 5% each time you engage in these sorts of behaviors.

Attendance: You must take the proof of attendance quiz by the due date. Additionally, you are expected to participate in the class discussions and turn in assignments by the due dates. Failure to turn in or participate in 3 assignments in a row could result in you being removed from the class.

- Students must adhere to university policies for the observance of religious practices in accordance with policy [ACD 304-04](#), “Accommodation for Religious Practices”. Additionally, students wishing to obtain an excused absence(s) for university sanctioned events/activities must follow policy [ACD 304-02](#), “Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities”.
- the instructor’s general attendance policy, including point values assigned to attendance/non-attendance.

Other official policy stuff: enjoy...

Trigger Warning: Please note that some course content may be deemed offensive by some students, although it is not my intention to offend anyone. In addition, some materials that we link with online might also be considered offensive, troubling, or difficult to review in terms of language or graphics. I attempt to provide warnings when introducing this kind of material; yet if I forget to do so, or if something else (in my materials or posts from fellow students) seems offensive, please contact me by the email provided above, or the faculty head for REL, Eugene Clay.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Arizona State University and the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts strongly believe in academic integrity; thus cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated. Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

If you fail to meet the standards of academic integrity in any of the criteria listed on the university policy website, sanctions will be imposed by the instructor, college, and/or dean. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment, [plagiarizing](#), academic deceit (such as fabricating data or information), or falsifying academic records. Turning in an assignment (all or in part) that you completed for a previous class is considered self-plagiarism and falls under these guidelines. Any infractions of self-plagiarism are subject to the same penalties as copying someone else's work without proper citations. Students who have taken this class previously and would like to use the work from previous assignments should contact the instructor for permission to do so.

If you have any doubt about whether the form of cooperation you contemplate is acceptable, ask the TA or the instructor in advance of turning in an assignment. Please be aware that the work of all students submitted electronically can be scanned using plagiarism detection software, which compares them against everything posted on the internet, online article/paper databases, newspapers and magazines, and papers submitted by other students (including yourself if submitted for a previous class).

Student resources on Sun Devil Integrity and strategies for completing your work with integrity and avoiding plagiarism are available here: <https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity/resources/students>. If you have any questions about your work and the academic integrity policy, please discuss your assignment or concerns with your instructor or TA in advance of submitting an assignment.

Students with Disabilities

If you need academic accommodations or special consideration of any kind to get the most out of this class, please let me know at the beginning of the course. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education at ASU, please call Disability Resources for Students (DRC). The site can be found here: eoss.asu.edu/drc. Instructors cannot provide accommodations without authorization from the DRC.

Downtown Phoenix Campus

[Post](#) Office Building, Suite 201

Phone: 602.496.4321

E-mail: DRCDowntown@asu.edu

Polytechnic Campus

[Sutton Hall - Suite 240](#)

Phone: 480.727.1039

E-mail: DRCPoly@asu.edu

Tempe Campus

[Matthews Center building, 1st floor](#)

Phone: 480.965.1234

E-mail: DRCTempe@asu.edu

West Campus

[University Center Building, Room 130](#)

Phone: 602.543.8145

E-mail: DRCWest@asu.edu

Mental Health

As a student, like anyone else, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These emotional health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. ASU Counseling Services provides counseling and crisis services for students who are experiencing a mental health concern. Any student may call or walk-in to any ASU counseling center for a same day or future appointment to discuss any personal concern. Here is the Web site: eoss.asu.edu/counseling. After office hours and 24/7 ASU's dedicated crisis line is available for crisis consultation by calling 480-921-1006.

Student Code of Conduct

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter V –Campus and Student Affairs: Code of Conduct located online at

students.asu.edu/srr/code and the ACD 125: Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications available at asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.html.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process under USI 201-10 asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm201-10.html. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course with a mark of "W" or "E" when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process. Disruptive classroom behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor.

Harassment Prohibited

ASU policy prohibits harassment on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, Vietnam era veteran status, and other protected veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students. Contact the professor if you are concerned about online harassment of any kind, and he/she will put you in contact with the Dean of Students office.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs.

"As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately."

Statement on Inclusion

Arizona State University is deeply committed to positioning itself as one of the great new universities by seeking to build excellence, enhance access and have an impact on our community, state, nation and the world. To do that requires our faculty and staff to reflect the intellectual, ethnic and cultural diversity of our nation and world so that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and we engage in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues we are addressing through our scholarly activities. We

recognize that race and gender historically have been markers of diversity in institutions of higher education. However, at ASU, we believe that diversity includes additional categories such as socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, nationality and intellectual perspective.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The course syllabus is an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes via email, or in the Announcements section on Canvas.

Campus Resources

There is clear evidence that students who take advantage of academic support services perform better academically. As an ASU student you have access to many resources on campus. This includes tutoring,

academic success coaching, counseling services, financial aid, disability resources, career and internship help and many opportunities to get involved in student clubs and organizations.

- Tutoring: asu.edu/academic-success
- Counseling Services: asu.edu/counseling
- Financial Aid: asu.edu/financialaid
- Disability Resource Center: edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/
- Major/Career Exploration: asu.edu/majorexploration/assessment
- Career Services: asu.edu/career
- Student Organizations: edu/studentaffairs/mu/clubs/
- ASU Writing Centers: asu.edu/writing-centers
- ASU Police Department: asu.edu/police
- International Student Resources: asu.edu/international/support/academic

