

ANTH 4813: Goddesses
M/W 5:30-7 OA 2017

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles
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Expanded Course Description: This course will explore the history and current understandings of goddess worship across various societies. Concepts such as the divine feminine will be explored in both historical contexts (Sumerian, Minoan, Indian, Egyptian), but also in current goddess movements (Wicca and Neo-Paganism) and goddess-worshipping traditions (Aboriginal Australia, Indigenous North America, Celtic and African goddess traditions). This cross-cultural exploration will also investigate understandings of patriarchy and whether there is a connection between goddess worshipping societies and the position of women in social/legal context.

Course Requirements:

Lecture: 40%

Reading Journals: 60%

Required Text: David Kinsley. *The Goddesses' Mirror: Visions of the Divine from East and West*. New York: SUNY, 1989.

Each student will be responsible for posting additional reading material the week before they present.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

WEEK 1: Course Introduction

Sept 4 Return of the Great Goddess. Introduction. PDF on D2L.
Discussion of Presentations: Choose Your Goddess

Great Goddesses: Crash Course
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpM-pfh-WWo>

WEEK 2: Pre-Patriarchal Goddess-Worshipping Matriarchy?

Sept 9 The Goddesses' Mirror. Introduction

Sept 11 Pagan, Goddess, Mother: Introduction. PDF on D2L.

WEEK 3: The Neolithic Great Goddess

Sept 16 Goddess Remembered
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRV8EiXS_q4

Sept 18 **PRESENTATION: Goddess Mother**

WEEK 4: Sumerian and Minoan Goddesses

Sept 23 Inanna: The Queen That Time Forgot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=T7WO4uPt1Vg>

The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 6: Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth

Sept 25 **PRESENTATION: Minoan Snake Goddess**

WEEK 5: Greek Goddesses

Oct 2 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 9: Golden Aphrodite

WEEK 6: Egyptian Goddesses

Oct 7 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 8: Isis, Heavenly Queen

Oct 9 PRESENTATION: Egyptian Goddess

WEEK 7: Hindu Goddesses

Oct 21 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 1: Durga, Warrior Goddess and Cosmic Queen

Oct 23 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 3: Laksmi, Goddess of Abundance and Luck

WEEK 8: Chinese and Japanese Goddesses

Oct 28 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 2: Kuan-yin, The Chinese Goddess of Mercy

Oct 30 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 4: Amaterasu, The Japanese Ancestral Goddess

WEEK 9: African Goddesses

Nov 4 PRESENTATION: Yoruban Goddess

Nov 6 PRESENTATION: African Goddess

WEEK 10: Sun Goddesses

Nov 11 PRESENTATION: Goddesses of the Americas

Nov 13 PRESENTATION: Celtic Goddesses

WEEK 11: Mother Mary and Canaanite Goddesses

Nov 18 The Goddesses' Mirror. Chapter 10: Mary, Virgin, Mother and Queen

Nov 20 PRESENTATION: Asherah

WEEK 12: Wiccan and Neo-Paganism: Goddess Worship Today

Nov 25 PRESENTATION: Wicca and Neo-Paganism

Nov 27 The Goddesses' Mirror: Conclusion

Assignments and Evaluation

Table of Assignments

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Lecture	Scheduled date: Must post readings one week before lecture	40%	
Reading Journals	Oct 11: 11:59pm on D2L Nov 29: 11:59pm on D2L	30% each (60%)	6-8 pages

Assignment Policies

- If you require an extension, you must ask for one BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late essays will be penalized by 5% per day and will no longer be accepted after 7 days.
- All assignments must be in AAA format, double spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12 point font.
- Exceptions to these policies are allowed only with a doctor's note or other appropriate documentation.
- All Assignments should be submitted on D2L.

Details of Assignments

Reading Journals: The journals are an opportunity to express your thoughts/responses/critical reviews of bi-weekly readings and lectures. Please present the date/title/reading/lecture discussed before each entry. Use this opportunity to establish connections and comparisons between the readings etc. What did you learn from the readings and the lectures? What did you connect with, and what did not resonate? Please present your reasoning in a critical/informed way. You should also comment on class discussions and films.

Lecture: Select the day you would like to present. Prepare a slideshow, lecture information and any potential films or extra resources. Everyone in the class is responsible for doing the readings each week in advance and actively participating in the discussion. Your presentation will need to include at least **three** outside academic references that you will list on the last slide in addition to listing your sources on each slide as you would for an in-text citation in a term paper. Of these three sources, please select one to submit on D2L for the class to read at least one week before you present.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean, who is responsible for judging academic misconduct and imposing penalties. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a 0 on the assignment in question. It might also be subject to more severe academic penalties. See the [Code of Student Behaviour](#)¹.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#)². This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think

¹ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/skills-for-success/responsibilities>

² <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>

you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#)³ and register as early as possible.

This course outline is available online through the [Desire2Learn or My Courselink](#)⁴ site for the course.

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post PDFs of course readings and announcements and also to access Zoom. All class readings must be posted on D2L a week before your lecture.

Policy on Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days unless prior arrangements have been made. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please see the web site: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures/node/1046>. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.

³ <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

⁴ <https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home>