
Great Mythologies of the World

Various Professors



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Kathryn McClymond, Ph.D.
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Professor, Great Mythologies of the World:
Ancient Europe; The Middle East and
South Asia

Professor Kathryn McClymond is Chair and Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Georgia State University, where she has taught since 1999. Professor McClymond graduated cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in History and Literature and later pursued her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her focus was on comparative ritual studies, with an emphasis on Hindu and Jewish traditions.

Professor McClymond has published widely on religion and ritual, focusing on sacrifice and violence. She also has been involved in collaborative research that emphasizes the importance of story and narrative in individual lives. Current projects include developing an oral history archive of the religious life stories of residents of Atlanta, Georgia, and an interdisciplinary program that encourages military personnel and veterans to integrate morally traumatic experiences into their own moral and ethical life stories.

Professor McClymond is the recipient of the Georgia State University College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award (2006) and the Georgia State University Distinguished Honors Professor Award (2002). In 2013, she was elected to the American Society for the Study of Religion. She also has been a member of the Board of Regents for the University of California.

Professor McClymond is the author of *Beyond Sacred Violence: A Comparative Study of Sacrifice* and the forthcoming *Ritual Gone Wrong: What We Learn from Ritual Disruption*, as well as numerous academic articles. ■



Julius H. Bailey, Ph.D.

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Professor, Great Mythologies of the World:
Africa

Professor Julius H. Bailey is a Professor of Religion at the University of Redlands. He received a B.A. in Religious Studies from Occidental College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests include African mythology, African American religious history, and new religious movements. He teaches courses on varied aspects of religion.

Professor Bailey's research focuses on the diverse experiences of the African diaspora. His first book is entitled *Around the Family Altar: Domesticity in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1865–1900*. This work examines the ideology of domesticity in the lives of African Americans in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and its distinctiveness in light of recent studies of 19th-century white Protestant and Catholic homes. The book traces the efforts of AME Church leaders and members to apply notions of domesticity to the challenges facing the denomination after the Civil War, such as regional tensions, the restoration of families after slavery, the licensing of female preachers, and the spiritual nurturing of children.

Professor Bailey's second book is *Race Patriotism: Protest and Print Culture in the AME Church*. This work analyzes the ways in which various understandings of race, gender, and place influenced the framing of social issues for African Americans in the 19th century. Issues discussed include westward migration, the selection of the appropriate referent for the race, social Darwinism, the viability of emigration to Africa, and cultural and religious connections to African traditional religions.

Professor Bailey's research also looks at African American new religious movements. His work on this topic includes "'Cult' Knowledge: The Challenges of Studying New Religious Movements in America" (a chapter in *Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History That Talks Back*) and "The Final Frontier: Secrecy, Identity, and the Media in the Rise and Fall of the United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors," published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. The professor also has written an article on white supremacist movements, "Fearing Hate: Reexamining the Media Coverage of the Christian Identity Movement," which appeared in the *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*.

Professor Bailey is currently at work on two books, a collection of international myths and a textbook on African American religious history. ■



Robert André LaFleur, Ph.D.
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Beloit College

Professor, Great Mythologies of the World:
Asia and the Pacific

Professor Robert André LaFleur is Professor of History and Anthropology at Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he has taught since 1998. Having graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Carleton College, Professor LaFleur received his doctorate from The University of Chicago's John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, where he combined work in three distinct fields: anthropology, history, and Chinese literature.

Professor LaFleur's current work combines historical research using Chinese, Japanese, and Korean sources with anthropological fieldwork on each of China's five sacred mountains. He is also doing research for an intellectual biography of Marcel Granet, a French scholar of China.

Professor LaFleur received the Charles S. Bassett Teaching Award from Colby College in 1998, as well as the James R. Underkoffler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from Beloit College in 2001 and 2011. He was also a finalist in 2010 for the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award from the American Historical Association. He is the recipient of a Millicent C. McIntosh Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and has been a frequent visiting scholar with the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research in the Humanities and the East-West Center in Honolulu. In 2013, Professor LaFleur gave a month-long series of lectures and seminars at Beijing University. He spent 2014 on a research fellowship at the Internationales Kolleg für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung (International Consortium for Research in the Humanities) in Erlangen, Germany.

Professor LaFleur is the lead author and editor of two textbooks: *China: A Global Studies Handbook* and a thoroughly revised and expanded version, *Asia in Focus: China*. He has published book chapters and articles about topics ranging from Chinese historiography, literature, and calendars to ethnicity and mythology. He also has presented dozens of research papers on topics ranging from China, Japan, and Korea to the history and anthropology of Oceania. ■



Grant L. Voth, Ph.D.
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Monterey Peninsula College

Professor, Great Mythologies of the World:
The Americas

Professor Grant L. Voth earned his bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy and Greek from Concordia Senior College in 1965. He received his master of arts degree in English Education from St. Thomas College in 1967 and his doctorate in English from Purdue University in 1971.

Professor Voth taught at Northern Illinois University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Monterey Peninsula College. He is Professor Emeritus in English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Monterey Peninsula College, from which he retired in 2003. He was the Monterey Peninsula Students' Association Teacher of the Year and the recipient of the first Allen Griffin Award for Excellence in Teaching in Monterey County.

For several years, Professor Voth was a consultant for the National Endowment for the Humanities, reading proposals for interdisciplinary studies programs and advising colleges that wished to initiate such programs; he was also a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. He served as director of an American Institute for Foreign Study program for a consortium of California colleges in London, and he has led travel-study tours to England, Ireland, France, Greece, Turkey, and Egypt. For many years, he led a travel-study program to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Santa Cruz Shakespeare Festival, and he has been a lecturer at the Carmel Bach Festival in Carmel, California.

Professor Voth is the author of more than 30 articles and books on subjects ranging from Shakespeare to Edward Gibbon to modern American fiction, including the official study guides for 26 of the plays in the *BBC Television*

Shakespeare project in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He created a series of mediated courses in literature and interdisciplinary studies for the Bay Area Television Consortium and the Northern California Learning Consortium, one of which won a Special Merit Award from the Western Educational Society for Telecommunication. Professor Voth's other Great Courses include *A Day's Read*, *The History of World Literature*, *Myth in Human History*, and *The Skeptic's Guide to the Great Books*. ■

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