HRS 151, Section 2: World Mythology (Fall 2014)
Instructor: Judith Poxon
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Office: MND 2012 Phone: 278-5040 (during office hours only)
Office hour: Wednesday, 4:00-6:00, and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS: Gilgamesh: A New English Version, Mitchell (trans.)
Beowulf: A Verse Translation, Heaney (trans.)
Ceremony, Silko

The above texts are available for purchase or rental in the campus bookstore. An additional required text is the World Mythology Reader, which must be purchased through universityreaders.com (ordering information to come). Other reading materials, in the form of online readings or handouts, may also be assigned as needed.

RECOMMENDED TEXT: A Pocket Style Manual, Hacker (any edition)
This text is a valuable resource on grammar, punctuation, style, and use of sources, and will continue to be helpful throughout your college career and beyond. You can find used copies online for under $10.00; I recommend Powell’s Books, at powells.com.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the nature and function of myth. The specific literature studied will be exclusive of classical mythology, and because of the breadth of subject matter, will vary in content. The mythology of at least four cultures will be covered each term. Units: 3.0

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Because the study of mythology covers a vast range of myths and approaches, this class will not be comprehensive, but is meant as an introduction, to inspire interest and further study. In this section we will examine some myths of the Near East, South Pacific, Northern Europe and the indigenous peoples of North America. In addition to reading and discussing primary source materials, we will consider a number of scholarly approaches to the significance of myth within different cultural contexts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should:
- be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the definition of myth and its purpose as an important expression of culture.
- be familiar with the essential mythology of the featured societies and be able to draw cross-cultural comparisons.
- have an understanding of how modern theorists have approached the study of myth.
- recognize and appreciate the continuing influence and value of mythology in the arts and society.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: The following will not be tolerated except in the case of emergencies: use of any electronic devices (laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc.) for any purpose; arriving more than five minutes late for class; leaving and re-entering the classroom; and eating, sleeping, reading outside materials, or having private conversations. In addition, and more importantly, I expect an atmosphere of respect for other students’ opinions, and an objective and empathetic response to the material we study together. Observing these guidelines will help ensure a better learning experience for all. PLEASE NOTE: If you have a documented disability and verification from the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice); (916) 278-7239 (TDD only); or via email at sswd@csus.edu.
**PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism has become a major problem on this campus, and I will not tolerate it. You are all responsible for familiarizing yourselves with the CSUS policy regarding academic honesty, which can be found at [www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm](http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm). In addition, you should know how to recognize and avoid plagiarism. Helpful information in this regard can be found in *A Pocket Style Manual*, by Diana Hacker (available on campus or at any good bookstore), and at [http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

I will return all plagiarized (unoriginal) work ungraded; you may, at my discretion, be allowed to resubmit the plagiarized assignment. However, in cases of clearly deliberate plagiarism, you will receive a 0 for the assignment, and will not be allowed to resubmit. Repeated instances of plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course. I will spend some time going over my expectations in this regard before your paper is due.

**REQUIREMENTS:** All students will need to:

- attend class. I will not keep track of your attendance, but the material you’ll be reading for this class is difficult, so the clarification offered in lectures will be crucial. Also, I will lecture on material that is *not* covered in reading assignments, and you will be responsible for that material, too.
- complete all assigned readings by the date for which they are listed in the Schedule of Assignments (below).
- submit written responses to study questions (posted weekly on SacCT) on each week’s reading assignment.
- participate in classroom discussions and complete periodic in-class writings or exercises. Success in this part of the class, which will be the basis of the participation part of your grade, will depend on keeping up with the assigned reading. **You will not have the opportunity to make up any missed in-class work.**
- write one paper of 7-8 pages on an assigned topic, according to guidelines to be furnished later. All papers must be turned in by the due date shown on the syllabus unless other arrangements have been made with me in advance; if you must miss class on the day the paper is due, you may email your paper to me, but you must also submit a hard copy on our next class meeting. These assignments are expected to conform to accepted standards of academic usage, and to be free of errors of grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. Again, I recommend *A Pocket Style Manual* as a good reference.
- take three take-home essay exams, which will be based on all assigned readings and material covered in lectures.

**NOTE:** For free, one-on-one help with writing in any class, visit the University Reading and Writing Center in Calaveras 128. The Writing Center can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. To make an appointment or a series of appointments, visit the Reading and Writing Center in CLV 128. The center also offers tutoring for one unit of academic credit through ENGL121. For current Writing Center hours and more information, visit the website at [www.csus.edu/writingcenter](http://www.csus.edu/writingcenter).

**GRADING:** Your final grade will be based on the following point totals:

- Participation: 100 points
- Study questions: 15 points each, for a total of 150 points
- Paper: 200 points
- Exams: 100 points each, for a total of 300 points
Your final letter grade will be determined according to a standard distribution (i.e., 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, etc.), but I am inclined to round up for students who make a real contribution to class. 😊 You should keep track of your own status in the class, but you may double-check it with me by email at any time.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: All reading assignments are to be completed by the date for which they are listed. This schedule is subject to change, but I will give advance notice if changes need to be made. Please bring your readers and books to class. WMR = World Mythology Reader.

Wednesday 1/28: Introduction to course

Wednesday 2/4: Foundations
    Read: WMR, pp. 1-30

Wednesday 2/11: Theory I
    Read: WMR, pp. 31-49

Wednesday 2/18: Theory II
    Read: WMR, pp. 51-67

Wednesday 2/25: Mesopotamia I
    Read: WMR, pp. 69-75 and http://faculty.gvsu.edu/websterm/Atrahasi.htm
    FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE

Wednesday 3/4: Mesopotamia II
    Read: *Gilgamesh*, “Introduction” and pp. 69-90

Wednesday 3/11: Mesopotamia III
    Read: *Gilgamesh*, pp. 91-199

Wednesday 3/18: Northern Europe I
    Read: WMR, pp. 77-80, and *Beowulf*, “Introduction” and pp. 3-67, line 1007

Wednesday 3/25: NO CLASS (Spring break)

Wednesday 4/1: Northern Europe II
    Read: *Beowulf*, pp. 67-213
    PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Wednesday 4/8: The South Pacific I
    Read: WMR, “Maori Mythology” and “The Creation Cycle”
    Film: *Whale Rider*
    SECOND TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE

Wednesday 4/15: The South Pacific II
    Film: *Whale Rider*
Wednesday 4/22: Indigenous North America I
   Read: WMR, pp. 89-99; http://www.uarizona.edu/~jcu/grandmotherspider.htm; and Ceremony, pp. 1-85
   PAPER DUE

Wednesday 4/29: Indigenous North America II
   Read: Ceremony, pp. 85-163

Wednesday 5/6: Indigenous North America III
   Read: Ceremony, pp. 164-243

Wednesday 5/13: Conclusion
   No new reading assignment; no study questions

Wednesday 5/20: FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE (no later than 6:00)