HRS 151, Section 3: World Mythology (Spring 2016)
Instructor: Judith Poxon
Email: judith.poxon@csus.edu and jlpoxon@netscape.net
Office: MND 2012 Phone: 278-5040 (during office hours only)
Office hour: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-2:30, 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. Fulfills GE area C2.

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:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the academic study of mythology.
- Be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the definition of myth and its purposes as an important expression of culture.
- Be familiar with the essential mythology of the featured societies and be able to draw cross-cultural comparisons, especially as they express different conceptions of humanity.
- Recognize and appreciate the continuing influence and value of mythology in the arts and society.

GE AREA C2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES:  Upon successful completion of a GE Area C2 course, the student should be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
- Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
- Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:  The following will not be tolerated except in the case of emergencies or documented special need:
- Use of cell phones for any purpose. If I find you using a cell phone during class, I will ask you to leave the classroom. Laptops, tablets, and e-readers will be allowed for legitimate classroom purposes, as long as their use doesn’t cause a distraction for other students.
- Arriving more than five minutes late for class.
- Leaving and re-entering the classroom.
- 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. I respect you as students, and in return I expect you to respect me and each other. 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).
- Write short responses, of at least one well-developed paragraph and at most one page, to assigned questions drawn from the readings. Topics for these responses will be posted weekly on SacCT. Scoring on these assignments, which are worth up to 20 points each, will be based primarily on evidence that you’ve done the reading and given it some thought. These responses are to be written in your own words, not quoted from the assigned reading, and no other source than the assigned reading is acceptable. I prefer that they be handwritten, but I will accept typed, double-spaced responses. Short responses will not be accepted later than the week they’re due, except in cases of extended excused absence, and are due at the beginning of class. The maximum total points for these responses for the semester is 200, so you may miss two or three without hurting this part of your grade.
- 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 two papers, of approximately 1000 words each, based on one of the major assigned texts and/or films.

**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.

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

- Participation (including in-class writing): 100 points
- Study questions: 20 points each, for a maximum total of 200 points
- Papers: 200 points each, for a total of 400 points
- Total points possible for the semester: 700

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 Monday of the week 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.*

**Monday 1/25 – Wednesday 1/27:** Introduction to course

- **Monday 2/1 – Wednesday 2/3:** Foundations
  - Read: *WMR*, pp. 1-30

- **Monday 2/8 – Wednesday 2/10:** Theory I
  - Read: *WMR*, pp. 31-49

- **Monday 2/15 – Wednesday 2/17:** Theory II
  - Read: *WMR*, pp. 51-74

- **Monday 2/22 – Wednesday 2/24:** Mesopotamia I
  - Read: *WMR*, pp. 75-81 and http://faculty.gvsu.edu/webstern/Atrahasi.htm

- **Monday 2/29 – Wednesday 3/2:** Mesopotamia II
  - Read: *Gilgamesh*, “Introduction” and pp. 69-90

- **Monday 3/7 – Wednesday 3/9:** Mesopotamia III
  - Read: *Gilgamesh*, pp. 91-199

- **Monday 3/14 – Wednesday 3/16:** Northern Europe I
  - Read: *WMR*, pp. 83-96, and *Beowulf*, “Introduction” and pp. 3-67, line 1007
Monday 3/21 – Wednesday 3/23: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Monday 3/28 – Wednesday 3/30: Northern Europe II
   Read: Beowulf, pp. 67-213

Monday 4/4 – Wednesday 4/6: The South Pacific I
   Read: WMR, pp. 97-112
   First paper due Wednesday

Monday 4/11 – Wednesday 4/13: The South Pacific II
   Film: Whale Rider

   Read: WMR, pp. 113-28; http://www.uarizona.edu/~jcu/grandmotherspider.htm; and Ceremony, pp. 1-85

   Read: Ceremony, pp. 85-163

Monday 5/2 – Wednesday 5/4: Indigenous North America III
   Read: Ceremony, pp. 164-243

Monday 5/9 – Wednesday 5/11: Conclusion
   Read: WRT, Ch. 9
   No new reading assignment; no study questions

Second paper due in my office (MND 2012) Wednesday 5/18, between 1:00 and 4:00 PM