

California State University, Sacramento
HRS 151, sec. 3, World Mythology
GE Area C3
Fall 2008

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 10:15 A M, MND 1024

R. Diane Anderson, Instructor

Office: MND 2030, Office Phone: (916) 278-6261 You may leave a message .

Office Hours: Monday 12 - 1:00 PM, Tuesday 10:30-11:30 AM Also by appointment

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REQUIRED TEXTS

- *World Mythology*. Donna Rosenburg
 - *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Penguin Classics). N.K. Sandars, Translator
 - *Popol-Vuh*. Dennis Tedlock, Translator
 - *Beowulf*. Seamus Heaney, Editor; Daniel Donoghue, Translator
- **Course Description:** This course provides an 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. At least four areas of mythology will be covered each term.
3 units
 - **Course Content:** This course will examine various theories of myth making, and the meaning of myth, as myth is associated with religion and culture. Some of the areas of myth the class will address during this semester are Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Indian, Chinese, Germanic, Norse, Mesoamerican and Native American.
 - **Writing Requirements and Testing:** Two papers are required for this class. The first paper is 3-4 pages in length; the second, 5-6 pages. Topics will be provided in class. There will be two (2) midterms and one (1) final exam.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Read, analyze, and discuss myths from different cultures.
- Learn the various theories by which world mythology can be classified and be able to recognize these theories in myth, cross culturally.
- Discover and discuss what common themes and parallels unite myths from different cultures and better understand how these can exist in cultures about which there is no known contact.
- Discover how world peoples view themselves and how mythology, religion and history serve as mirrors, reflecting universal human hopes, fears, and biases.
- Examine how the concepts of gender are reflected in world mythology and what variety exists among cultures with respect to gender roles.
- Examine how world societies characterize their relationship with the natural world, how they explain its creation and processes and in what ways these questions are evident in various systems of mythology.

*** FOR GENERAL NOTES ON FORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, PLEASE SEE SEPARATE HANDOUT. ***

LAPTOP POLICY: Many discussions have included both the positive values and the negative distractions of using laptop computers in the classroom. The debate continues and still there is no consensus. Therefore each instructor must make his or her own policy. I will decide about the use of laptops in my classroom on a case-by-case basis and only with my personal approval. You must see me about using your laptop in class and make your case for permission to do so.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY: Students are expected to attend all sessions of the class, prepared to discuss the reading assignment for the day. It is necessary, both for your own education and as a courtesy to the other members of the class, to attend class regularly and punctually. An attendance sheet will be distributed for your signature at each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign this sheet. Numerous absences and/or chronic tardiness will adversely affect your participation grade. When applicable, I will implement the *Department Attendance Policy*.

		GRADING	
Preparation and Participation	40 points	A = 100-93%	C = 76-73%
Midterm #1	50 points	A- = 92-90%	C- = 72-70%
Midterm #2	50 points	B+= 89-87%	D+= 69-67%
Oral Report	40 points	B = 86-83%	D = 66-63%
Paper #1	50 points	B- = 82-80%	D- = 62-60%
Paper #2	60 points	C+= 79-77%	F = 59% and below
Final Exam	60 points		
Total Possible	350 points		

Details of the policy in regard to plagiarism are explained in the separate *Writing Guide* handout. The way in which plagiarism affects your grade in this class is as follows. If I determine through my own investigation that a student has committed an act of plagiarism, the student will receive an F on the assignment, the possibility of an F in class and a referral to Student Affairs for possible university disciplinary action.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

*****This syllabus is subject to adjustments with appropriate prior notice *******

Week 1

- Tues/Sept 2 Introduction to World Mythology
- Thurs/Sept 4 Myth Making, Theory and Meaning
Rosenburg, *World Mythology* (WM), pp. xi-xxi

Week 2

- Tues/Sept 9 **FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE**
Submit a copy of your confirmation e-mail verifying that you have successfully subscribed to listproc**Instructions for subscribing to listproc are attached to this syllabus**
Readings:
Mesopotamian Creation Myth
WM *The Enuma elish*, pp. 2-11
Sandars, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Introductory material, pp. 7-60

*****Bring *The Epic of Gilgamesh* to class throughout our entire reading and discussion of the work. *****

- Thurs/Sept 11 Mesopotamian Myth cont.
Sandars, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, pp. 61-107

Week 3

- Tues/Sept 16 Mesopotamian Myth cont.
Sandars, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, pp. 108-119

- Thurs/Sept 18 **Egyptian Myth**
Creation & Flood Stories Lecture

Week 4

- Tues/Sept 23 "Osiris, Isis, and Horus"
WM pp. 12-21

Thurs/Sept 25 **MIDTERM #1**
50 MINUTES
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
30 MINUTES
Intro to the Myths of India

Week 5
Tues/Sept 30 **India's Myths**
"The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe"
WM pp. 291-295
"The Ramayana"
WM pp. 296-309

Thurs/Oct 2 **NO CLASS MEETING TODAY**
OUTSIDE CLASS ASSIGNMENT:
RESEARCH FOR UPCOMING PAPER AND THE READING ASSIGNMENT
India's Myths cont.
"The Ramayana"
WM pp. 309-321

Week 6
Tues/Oct 7 India's Myths cont.

Thurs/Oct 9 India's Myth continued

Week 7
Tues/Oct 14 **PAPER #1 DUE @ THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**
Chinese Myth
"The Creation of the Universe and the Human Beings"
WM pp. 324-329
"Chi Li Slays the Serpent"
WM pp. 330-334

Thurs/Oct 16 Chinese Myth cont.

Week 8
Tues/Oct 21 **Norse Myth**
"The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe"
WM pp. 458-474
"The Theft of Thor's Hammer," and "Sigurd the Volsung"
WM pp. 475-505

Thurs/Oct 23 **MIDTERM #2**
50 MINUTES
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
30 MINUTES
Intro to *Beowulf*

Week 9
Tues/Oct 28 Germanic Myth
Beowulf, pp. xv-xxxviii, pp. 3-22
WM pp. 381-386

*******Bring *Beowulf* to class throughout our entire reading and discussion of the work.*******

Thurs/Oct 30 Germanic Myth cont.
Beowulf, 22-43

Week 10
Tues/Nov 4 Germanic Myth
Beowulf, pp. 43-63

Thurs/Nov 6	Germanic Myth <i>Beowulf</i> , pp. 63-78		
<u>Week 11</u>			
Tues/Nov 11	<u>NO CLASS MEETING</u>	<u>VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY</u>	<u>CAMPUS CLOSED</u>
Thurs/Nov 13	Germanic Myth Conclusions Mesoamerican Myth Introduction Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , Parts One and Two, pp. 63-88 <u>GROUP REPORTS BEGIN</u> Mesoamerican Myth cont. Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , pp. 15-60 ***Bring <i>Popol-Vuh</i> to class throughout all oral reports and discussion of the work. ***		
<u>Week 12</u>			
Tues/Nov 18	Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont. Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , Parts One and Two, pp. 63-88		
Thurs/Nov 20	Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont. Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , Part Three and Four, pp. 91-142, 145-175		
<u>Week 13</u>			
Tues/Nov 25	Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont. Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , Part Three and Four, pp. 91-142, 145-175		
Thurs/Nov 27	<u>NO CLASS MEETING</u>	<u>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</u>	<u>CAMPUS CLOSED</u>
<u>Week 14</u>			
Tues/Dec 2	<u>PAPER #2 DUE @ THE BEGINNING OF CLASS</u> Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont. Tedlock, <i>Popol-Vuh</i> , Part Five, 179-198		
Thurs/Dec 4	Native American Myth "The Emergence (Navajo)" WM, pp. 615-621 "Lodge-Boy and Thrown Away (Crow)" WM pp. 622-624 "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky (Iroquois)" WM pp,625-633		
<u>Week 15</u>			
Tues/Dec 9	Native American Myth cont. "Raven and Sources of Light" WM pp. 625-636 "Sedna" 637-641 "Caught by a Hair-String" WM 643-652		
Thurs/Dec 11	Conclusions		

Final Exam Date: Tuesday, December 16 * Time: 8:00-10:00 AM***
Place: MND 2024***Materials:Blue Book(s) and 2Pens or Pencils**