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 Rosenberg  
- *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 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
        Beowulf, pp. 63-78

Week 11

Tues/Nov 11  NO CLASS MEETING        VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY        CAMPUS CLOSED

Thurs/Nov 13  Germanic Myth Conclusions
        Mesoamerican Myth Introduction
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, Parts One and Two, pp. 63-88

        GROUP REPORTS BEGIN
        Mesoamerican Myth cont.
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, pp. 15-60

        ***Bring *Popol-Vuh* to class throughout all oral reports and discussion of the work. ***

Week 12

Tues/Nov 18  Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont.
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, Parts One and Two, pp. 63-88

Thurs/Nov 20  Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont.
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, Part Three and Four, pp. 91-142, 145-175

Week 13

Tues/Nov 25  Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont.
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, Part Three and Four, pp. 91-142, 145-175

Thurs/Nov 27  NO CLASS MEETING        THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY        CAMPUS CLOSED

Week 14

Tues/Dec 2  PAPER #2 DUE @ THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
        Group Reports cont./Mesoamerican Myth cont.
        Tedlock, *Popol-Vuh*, 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

Week 15

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