SPRING 2011
HRS 151, sec. 2, WORLD MYTHOLOGY

Wednesday: 6:00 – 8:50PM
RVR 1015
R Diane Anderson, Instructor
Office: MND 2028
Office Hours: Monday 10:30 to 11:30AM
Wednesday 4:00 to 5:00PM
And by Appointment
Email: andersonrd@csus.edu

Required Texts
• World Mythology. Donna Rosenberg
• The Epic of Gilgamesh Penguin Classics). N.K. Sanders, Translator
• Beowulf. Seamus Heaney, Editor; Daniel Donoghue, Translator
• Popol-vuh. Dennis Tadlock, Translator

• Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the nature and function of myth. The specific literature studied will exclude classical mythology and, because of the breadth of the subject matter, will vary in content. At least four areas of world mythology will be covered each term.
3 Units

• Course Content: This course will examine various theories of myth making and the meanings of myths, as they are associated with culture and religion. The questions of commonality and difference present in world mythology are another area students will examine. During this semester the class will address Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Indian, Chinese, Germanic, Norse, Mesoamerican and Native American myths.

• Writing Requirements: Two papers are required in this class. The first paper is 2-3 pages in length, the second, 5-6 pages. Topics will be provided in class.

• Occasional Reading Assignment Quizzes

• Participate in an Oral Presentation as a member of an assigned group.

Course Goals and Objectives

• Read, analyze and discuss myths from different cultural and geographic areas.
• Learn various theories by which scholars have and do classify world mythology. Students will become adept at recognizing theories of myth cross-culturally.
• Discover and discuss what common themes and parallels unite myths from different cultures and better understand how these exist in cultures about which there is known early contact.
• Discover how world peoples view themselves and how mythology, religion and history serve as mirrors reflecting universal hopes, fears and biases.
• Examine how concepts of gender can be reflected in world mythology and what variety exists with respect to gender roles, culturally.
• 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.
LAPTOP POLICY: Many discussions have included both the positive value and the negative distractions of using laptop computers 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 classrooms on a case-by-case basis. Such use is allowed only with my personal approval. Students must see me about using a laptop in my classroom and make his or her case for permission to do so.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY: Students are expected to attend all sessions of this class prepared to discuss the reading assignment(s) for the day. It is necessary both for your own education and as a courtesy to other members of the class to attend regularly and punctually. An attendance log will available to sign at each class meeting. Every student is responsible for signing this log. Numerous absences and/or chronic tardiness will adversely affect your grade. When applicable, I will enforce the Department Attendance Policy.

GRADING:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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| Preparation and Participation | 40 pts | A = 100-93%  
                       |        | C = 76-73%  |
| Midterm #1               | 50 pts | A- = 92-90% |
| Midterm #2               | 50 pts | C- = 72-70% |
| Paper #1                 | 40 pts | B+ = 89-87% |
| Paper #2                 | 60 pts | B = 86-83%  |
| Final Exam               | 50 pts | D+ = 69-67% |
| Reading Quizzes          | 25 pts | B = 82-80%  |
| Total Points Possible    | 325 pts| D = 62-60%  |

PLAGIARISM: Details in regard to plagiarism are specified in a separate Writing Guide attached and online on Sac CT. Plagiarism will affect your grade as follows: When I determine through my own investigation that a student has committed an act of plagiarism, the student will receive an F on the assignment, possibly an F in the 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
Wed/Jan 26  Introduction to World Mythology

Week 2
Wed/Jan 31  Myth Making, Theory and Meaning
            Rosenberg, World Mythology (MW), pp. xi-xxi
            Mesopotamian Creation Myth
            WM, The enuma elish, pp. 2-11
            Sandar, The Epic of Gilgamesh (EG), Introductory material, pp. 7-60
| Week 3 | Wed/Feb 9 | Egyptian Myth | Creation & Flood Stories Lecture
|        |           | “Osiris, Isis and Horus” | WM, pp. 12-21 |
| Week 4 | Wed/Feb 16 | MIDTERM #1 | 50 MINUTES
|        |           | Video |
| Week 5 | Wed/Feb 23 | India’s Myths | “The Creation of the Universe and Rebirth of the Universe”
|        |           | WM pp. 291-293 |
|        |           | “Vishnu as Shiva-Rudra, Destroyer . . . “ | WM pp. 293-294 |
|        |           | “The Ramayada” | WM pp. 309-334 |
| Week 6 | Wed/Mar 2 | India’s Myths cont. | Chinese Myth
|        |           | “The Creation of the Universe and Human Beings” | WM pp. 324-326 |
|        |           | “Nu Kua, Creator and Preserver . . . “ | WM pp. 326-328 |
|        |           | “Chi Li Slays the Dragon” | WM pp. 330-334 |
| Week 7 | Wed/Mar 9 | PAPER #1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS | Norse Myth
|        |           | “The Creation, Death and Rebirth of the Universe” | WM pp. 458-466 |
|        |           | “The Death of Balder” | WM pp. 467-474 |
|        |           | “The Theft of Thor’s Hammer” | WM pp. 474-477 |
| Week 8 | Wed/Mar 16 | MIDTERM #2 | 50 MINUTES
|        |           | Germanic Society Lecture |
| Week 9 | MARCH 21-26 | SPRING BREAK |
| Week 10 | Wed/30 | Germanic/Anglo Saxon/English Myth | “Beowulf”
|         |           | WM pp. 381-386 |
|         |           | Beowulf | pp. xv-xxviii; pp. 3-63 |
Week 11
Wed/Apr 6  
*Beowulf* cont.  
pp. 63-78  
Mesoamerican Myth  
Video, Introduction, Discussion

Week 12
Wed/Apr 13  
*Popol-Vuh*  
GROUP ORAL PRESENTATIONS BEGIN TODAY

Week 13
Wed/Apr 20  
*Popol-Vuh*  
PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Week 14
Wed/Apr 27  
PAPER #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS  
*Popol-Vuh*  
PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Native American Myth  
“The Emergence” (Navajo)  
WM pp. 615-621  
“The Lodge Boy and Throw Away”  
WM pp. 622-624  
“The Woman Who Fell from the Sky” (Iroquois)  
WM pp. 625-633  
“Raven and Sources of Life”  
WM pp. 634-636  
“Sedna”  
WM pp. 637-641  
“Caught by Hair-String”  
WM pp.

Week 15
Wed/May 4  
Native American Myth cont.

Week 16
Wed/May 11  
Cont. Material as Needed  
Lecture and Discussion

FINAL EXAM  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18  
5:15 to 7:15 PM  
RVR 1015