Course Policies & Schedule

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. (GE Area: C3)

THIS SECTION defines a myth as any story that establishes some connection between real life situations and dimensions of reality normally hidden from view; such stories differ from fairy tales and other similarly magical stories, which are designed primarily to stimulate the imagination. Team-based learning (see www.teambasedlearning.org), facilitated by SacCT and eInstruction response pads ("clickers"), will be the primary mode of engaging with literature and film showing real people incorporating mythic stories into their daily lives; these are the primary sources for the course. In examining these sources, we will pay special attention to the relationship between mythic stories and the rituals that often frame them; the relevance of mythic stories to everyday human experience; and the ways in which such stories might be considered "true." We will focus on the following four cultural regions: (1) Native North America and the Pacific Rim, (2) Africa and its Latin American diaspora, (3) China and (4) the Indian Subcontinent and surrounding regions. Emphasis will be on the modern period, but the course will also consider briefly, via secondary readings, the way that mythology has developed historically since ancient times.

IMPORTANT NOTE: like most of the offerings in this department, "World Mythology" is READING INTENSIVE, assuming that you will dedicate 5-7 hours per week for reading and assignments outside of class time.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: After attentively engaging with the materials presented in this course, you should be able to:

1. (a) effectively answer basic questions, posed by a peer unfamiliar with the topic of mythology in world cultures, regarding key terms, mythic stories and rituals of the four world regions surveyed in this course; and
   (b) formulate questions regarding the aspects of mythology that you want to understand more fully, in order to guide you in locating and reading reliable sources that address those questions.
2. (a) describe accurately and fairly, again for a peer unfamiliar with the topic, the assigned primary sources that show the impact of mythic stories on real people; and
   (b) present a balanced selection of details from those sources that supports your statements about them.
3. (a) compare and contrast, for class members as well as peers outside the classroom, different viewpoints and stories within each tradition studied; and
   (b) compare and contrast the assigned stories with your own direct experience of telling a mythic story to others.
4. effectively communicate with peers while refining the skills listed in #1-3.
5. appreciate both the emotional impact and intellectual fascination of mythic stories throughout the globe in all periods of history.
6. continue asking questions and gathering insights about your own and other people’s mythic stories and their impact on daily life.

SOURCES: The two sources listed directly below contain all required readings and must be brought to all relevant class meetings. All but the first and last (for which instructions are provided below) are available at the Hornt Bookstore. The schedule of readings below refers to these sources using either a title abbreviation or the author's last name, as indicated below in parentheses in bold print.

- Encyclopedia Britannica (EB) [free for enrolled students via links in the on-line version of the schedule below]
- Karen Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth* (SHM) [ISBN #1-84195-716-X]-- the paperback edition is fine
- Ahmadou Kourouma, *The Sage of Independence* (Kourouma) [ISBN #0-8419-0747-1]
"HRS 151: World Mythology\* Course Pack (CP) [must be mail-ordered from www.universityreaders.com at the above URL (click the "Students Buy Here" button at the top right side) or call 1-800-200-3908]

You will also need an eInstruction response pad ("clicker") for use throughout the course; see below under "SACCT & CLICKERS."

Optional: for those seeking more in-depth study of myth, you may wish to search on-line for the following sources.

- Christopher Siren, *Myths & Legends* [on-line source]
- Alan Dundes, *Sacred Narrative Readings in the Theory of Myth*
- Scott Leonard & Michael McClure, *Myth and Knowing: an Introduction to World Mythology*
- Donna Rosenberg, ed., *World Mythology*

**ATTENDANCE:** Evaluation of your attendance in this course is built into other parts of the grade. Roughly two thirds of the class sessions involve the completion of a graded activity for which you cannot receive credit if you are absent; this includes team readiness assessments scored for each individual and team assignments for which attendance will be taken within each team. (See "Grading Policies" below regarding credit for missed assignments.) The remainder of class periods are study sessions designed to guide you in making sense of the assigned readings; missing these will make successful completion of in-class assignments more difficult.

Regarding **FLU & COLDS,** if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or a severe cold, please stay home. We will work out a way to make up missed work once you return; see below under "Absences" and "Grading Policies."

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** I ask students who arrive late to **wait outside the door for a break** following opening announcements (usually 10-15 minutes), at which point the door will be opened. If I am talking when you enter, **take a seat near the door** rather than crossing everyone’s field of vision. To avoid distracting others once you are in the classroom, please:

- keep cell phones turned off and stowed away for the entire duration of the class, as you would on an airplane.
- put away all laptops, except if you have documented disabilities requiring one.
- put away food & drink before entering the classroom (water OK).
- avoid crossing the front of the room while the instructor is talking; sit by the door if you need to leave early.
- stop all side conversation with neighbors whenever anyone is speaking to the class as a whole.

Please contact me during the first two weeks of the term if you have a **disability or other special circumstance that merits an exception** to any of the above guidelines.

**ABSENCES:** Due to the amount of emails and calls I must process, I cannot provide information about every missed class to every absent student. If you miss a class or any part of one, please **follow the steps below before contacting me** by email or phone, which in many cases will not be necessary.

1. Consult the syllabus to determine what activities you missed. If you **missed a team assignment,** you can still write the **notes** for it; see #4 below.
2. **Contact other members of your team** ASAP to find out about any announcements, you may have missed, which are usually made during the first 10-15 minutes of a given class session. (You can use the "browse" function in SacCT mail (see below) to select student names from a list, or gather direct email addresses from team members you know best during the first weeks of the term.)
3. When you return to class, approach me before or after class to **retrieve any graded assignments** that may have been returned during your absence. (I am not responsible for low scores on assignments resulting from failure to collect or read comments on earlier, similar assignments.)
4. If you were absent during a team assignment, you may also **submit notes for the missed assignment.** (See below under "Grading Policies" for details regarding credit on missed team assignments.)

**SACCT & CLICKERS:** Class emails and grade posting will be handled through SacCT, the university's on-line instructional system. In order to be registered for this course in SacCT, you will need a **valid saclink username and password:** if you do not currently have one, call (278-7337); visit the Saclink Desk (Academic Information Resource Center, Room 2005, just behind the library); or simply go to **www.saclink.csus.edu** and follow the instructions for "Set up Saclink" in the left-hand column.

The eInstruction RF response pad ("clicker"), available for purchase at the bookstore, will be required for assessments throughout the course, starting during the second week's class session. Once you have purchased the unit, you will need to register it
**EMAIL:** in order to receive updates regarding class sessions throughout the term, you are required to check the email included in your SacCT account on a regular basis for the duration of the course. Unless you log in to SacCT on a daily basis, please set your SacCT email to forward messages to your regular email address. To do so, (1) click on the "My Settings" link in the upper left hand corner; (2) selecting the "My Profile" tab and updating the profile to include the email address you actually use; and finally (3) selecting the "My Tool Options" and checking the "Mail Forwarding" option.

To contact me, please EMAIL ME DIRECTLY (not in SacCT) at jdubois@csus.edu; include the abbreviation "WM" or "HRS 151" in the subject heading. I typically respond to student emails on **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons**, and usually sometime end of week or weekend, as time allows. For queries that require immediate attention, please call or leave a voice mail at 278-5332.

**IMPORTANT:** before contacting me by phone or email regarding an absence, which in many cases is not necessary, see the steps outlined above under "Absences."

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments for this course are directly related to the learning objectives specified above. Students needing to skip assignments due to time constraints are advised to choose from #4-5; skipping #1-3 makes completing higher level assignments very difficult.

1. four (4) in-class, on-line **TRAs** ("team readiness assessments")
   [lowest score dropped; 5 x 25 points for each individual & team = **150 points total**]
2. thirteen (13) in-class **team assignments** (**350 points total**)
   [participation requires bringing notes to a minimum of
   9 team assignments & attendance a minimum of 11 assignment days;
   extra points for each assignment distributed via a peer evaluation system]

   **view diagram of sequencing for TRAs and team assignments**

3. selection & memorization of a **story** to be told weekly (**100 points**)
   [assessed via storytelling log and appointment during 2nd half of term]
4. four (4) **source analyses**, drawing on optional films and readings listed for each unit
   [1-2 pages each, lowest score dropped; 5 x 50 points = **150 points total**]
5. two (2) **guided reflections** (**100 + 150 points = **250 points** total)
   [5 page worksheet, peer review, and final 5 page paper--all done twice]


**GRADING POLICIES:**

- Barring a genuine emergency that leads to extended absence, **no make-ups** are available for TRAs; but note that the lowest score is dropped, so missing one TRA will not in itself lower your grade.
- If you are absent during a team assignment, you may receive half credit for turning in thorough notes when you return to class. If your absence is the result of a genuine emergency, illness, or other some compelling reason, which **except for flu symptoms** must be verified in writing by a medical or some other professional, you may receive full credit for those notes. (See above under "Absences" regarding procedure for submitting notes.)
- I generally do not accept rewrites of analyses and reflections; however you may wish to show me preliminary drafts, submitted for review at least three days prior to the deadline. I **DO accept late assignments** during the term., but **subtract 5%** from your overall score for each class day late; I will however **not accept late submissions for the final assignment**. Assignments submitted via email to meet a deadline must be delivered in printed form at the next class, without which they will not be graded.
- If you have a disability that requires some accommodation, please contact me to discuss such accommodation within the first two weeks of the term. I consider extreme difficulty with social interaction and interpersonal communication a legitimate disability, which should be brought to my attention as soon as possible, since team work is such an integral part of the course. If you are unsure about whether you have a disability, I encourage you to speak with me and/or also to contact the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall 1008, 278-6955).
- I will generally impose severe penalties for academic dishonesty: a **ZERO SCORE** for the TRA or assignment in question, and an "F" FOR THE COURSE for a second offense. You are responsible for reading my comments regarding the importance of academic honesty in FAQ, #10-13, and for requesting clarification if there is anything you do not understand. You may also want to check out the library's tutorial on plagiarism.
- Finally, students needing extra time to complete their work for the course must submit to me an **application for an incomplete**, available in MND 2011. As stated above, I will not accept a late final assignment or give an incomplete grade without this form in...
SCHEDULE OF READINGS: All readings in this schedule should ideally be completed by the day under which they are listed, although this requirement is only assessed during TRAs and team assignments. All numbers in the schedule are page numbers unless otherwise noted. Optional readings in print are available at the Reserve Book Room (RBR), some in on-line form; videos are available at either the Library Media Center (LMC) or local video stores such as Blockbusters, as indicated.

If you click on a link to Encyclopedia Britannica on-line from off-campus, you will initially be directed to an authentication page that asks you to enter your Saclink ID and password. WARNING: make sure that you use the links in the on-line version of this syllabus to access EB; going through the library's database page may lead you to different material that will likely confuse you when preparing for TRAs.

CAUTION: I reserve the right to make revisions to on-line materials prior to their discussion in class at the relevant point in the semester. Therefore WAIT until that time to print out materials you wish to have on hand, such as terms, excerpts and assignment guidelines.

NOTE: the following schedule incorporates one furlough day on Wednesday, March 24, pending administrative approval.

Introduction: Introduction to Myth & Team-Based Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, January 27</td>
<td>introductions</td>
<td>find syllabus on-line at <a href="http://www.csus.edu/indiv/d/duboisj/WM/WMsPM_home.html">http://www.csus.edu/indiv/d/duboisj/WM/WMsPM_home.html</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>inquiry:</td>
<td>purchase books</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;what is learning?&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>review of syllabus</td>
<td>check out <a href="http://www.csus.edu/sringeri">www.csus.edu/sringeri</a> (Sringeri Multi-Media Archive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>[2nd half:]</td>
<td>guided reading for intro unit</td>
<td>LOCATE &amp; study TERMS in these overviews:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>view film excerpts from &quot;The Secret of Roan Innish&quot;</td>
<td>EB article: &quot;Myth&quot; (p.1, 4-6, 8)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>SHM, 1-12, 31-32</td>
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<td>LOCATE &amp; study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- &quot;Epiphany,&quot; &quot;Blackbird,&quot; &amp; &quot;Ellen in University Underworld&quot; (on-line syllabus)</td>
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<td>- &quot;Virgin Birth, a Fairy Tale&quot; (from the State Hornet)</td>
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<td>- Professor Cristy Jensen's Livingston Faculty Lecture (download PDF version)</td>
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<td>- President Gonzales's Inaugural Address &amp; Greetings (download PDF version)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, February 5</td>
<td>form teams &amp; take trial TRA</td>
<td>(same as above)</td>
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<tr>
<td>[2nd half:]</td>
<td>trial team assignment</td>
<td>REVIEW IN DEPTH:</td>
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<td>- &quot;Epiphany,&quot; &quot;Blackbird,&quot; &amp; &quot;Ellen in University Underworld&quot; (on-line syllabus)</td>
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</table>
CHOSE ONE item in this list if you wish to complete a trial source analysis (OPTIONAL):

- "A Storyteller's Tale" (@ LMC)
- "Treasures of the Heart," p. TBA (@ RBR)
- Esther's Story, p. TBA (@ RBR)
- Campus Maps (download 1/25/4/5/6)

[DUE 2/10, counted as EXTRA CREDIT towards TRA #1]

[EB articles:]
- "Myth: Approaches to Study" & "Functions" (p. 7, 9-22)
- "Myths: Major Types" (p. 7, 9-10, 34-45)
- "Myth: Animals & Plants" (p. 49-67)

Unit 1: Native Americas & the Pacific Rim
Historical Focus: mythic stories of the Paleolithic period
Thematic Focus: courage in facing the degeneration of traditional culture

Wed, February 10  
guided reading for Unit 1  
view excerpt from "Whale Rider"  
LOCATE & study TERMS in these overviews:
SHM, 12-40, 104-8, 112-13, 116-18; CP, 8-10
EB articles: "Southwest Indian" (p. 1-3, p. 6-7 & 9),
"Polynesian Culture" (p. 1 & 2), "Maori Oral Tradition" & "Mayan Society"

[2nd half:]  
guided reading for Unit 1 (cont'd)  
LOCATE & study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:
Silko, Ceremony--download study guide (if not in CP)
Sullivan, "Royal Treatment" (CP, 19-34)

Wed, February 17  
TRA #1  
REVIEW IN DEPTH:
Sullivan, "Royal Treatment" (CP, 19-34)

[2nd half:]  
*Story Summary* DUE  
REVIEW IN DEPTH:
Sullivan, "Royal Treatment" (CP, 19-34)

Wed, February 24  
team assignment 1b  
REVIEW IN DEPTH:
Silko, Ceremony (entire book)

[2nd half:]  
continuing discussion of novel & team assignment 1c  
REVIEW IN DEPTH:
notes on "Whale Rider"
Silko novel & Sullivan chapter

CHOSE ONE item in this list for the source analysis:

from Silko, Storyteller (@ RBR)

- p. 1-7, 77-89
- 182-198 &/OR 210-15
- p. 123-129, 160-6, 170-176
- p. 240-41, 246, 254-65
- p. 235-41, 247-55

[Any of these sources may also be used for EXTRA CREDIT]

[audio-visual:]
- "Smoke Signals" (@ local video stores)

Unit 2: African & the African-American Diaspora
Historical Focus: mythic stories of the Neolithic period
Thematic Focus: honoring unseen powers that manifest through natural processes, inner and outer
Wed, March 3

*Unit 1 Source Analysis*

DUE beginning of class

(view excerpt from "Keita: Heritage of the Griot" (@LMC))

LOCATE & study TERMS in these overviews:

- SHM, 1-2, 41-78, 108-12, 114-16; CP, 11-12
- EB articles: "African Religion," "Vodou"
- "African-American regions" in South America

LOCATE & study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:

- Kourouma, *Suns of Independence* --> download study guide (if not in CP)
- Griaule, selections from *Conversations with Ogotemmeli* (CP, 35-56)
- Deren, "The White Darkness" (CP, 57-68)

beginning of class

guided reading for Unit 2

Wed, March 10

[2nd half:]

team assignment 2a

(REVIEW IN DEPTH:

Griaule, selections from *Conversations with Ogotemmeli* (CP, 35-56)

Deren, "The White Darkness" (CP, 57-68)

Wed, March 17

*1st Guided Reflection worksheet*

DUE beginning of class

team assignment 2b

[2nd half:]

continuing discussion of novel & team assignment 2c

*Unit 2 Source Analysis*

DUE 3/24 @ RIV 1015, 5:30 pm

CHOOSE ONE item in this list for the source analysis:

- "Mesopotamian Religion" (p. 1-10 & OR 11-21)
- "Mali: Land & People" (p. 1-11)
- "Mali: Culture & History" (p. 1-27, 39)
- [films:]
  - "Divine Horsemen" (@ LMC)
  - "The Nuer" (@ LMC)

[films:]

Any of these sources may also be used for EXTRA CREDIT

Unit 3: China

Historical Focus: mythic stories of the Axial age

Thematic Focus: the influence of deep-seated emotions, especially in connection with the dead

Wed, April 7

*first Guided Reflection*

DUE beginning of class, with worksheet attached

(view excerpt from "King of Masks" (@LMC))

LOCATE & study TERMS in these overviews:

- SHM, 79-92, 97-103; CP, 15 & 17; EB articles:
  - "shen," "Taoism: General Characteristics" (p.1, 13-16)
  - "Taoism: History" (p. 20-25, 27, 39-41) & "bodhisattva"

LOCATE & study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:

- T'ieh-yün, *Travels of Lao T'î'an* (only pages listed below: preface, ch.1, 3-4, 7-14, p.226-31 & SKIM remainder)
  --> download study guide (if not in CP)
- Potter, "Cantonese Shamanism" (CP, 69-82)
Wed, April 14    TRA #5    film: EB article on

[2nd half:]  team assignment 3a    REVIEW IN DEPTH:
Potter, "Cantonese Shamanism"(CP, 69-82)

Wed, April 21    team assignment 3b    REVIEW IN DEPTH:
T'ieh-yün, *Travels of Lao Ts'än* (ch.1, 3-4, 7-14, p.226-31 & SKIM remainder)

[2nd half:]  continuing discussion of novel & team assignment 3c    REVIEW IN DEPTH:
notes on "King of Masks"
T'ieh-yün novel & Potter chapter

CHOOSE ONE item in this list for the source analysis:

- "Joy Luck Club" (@ LMC)
- "Architecture & the Supernatural," p. 185-92
- "When a Ghost Becomes a God," p.193-206
- "Cosmic Antagonism," p.233-50
- "Taoist Ceremonies," p.309-324
- "Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy," p.325-356

[Any of these sources may also be used for EXTRA CREDIT]

Unit 4 : India
Historical Focus: Western transformations of mythic thinking, pre-modern and modern
Thematic Focus: adapting and revising mythic stories so that mythic traditions can survive and grow

Wed, April 28    "Unit 3 Source Analysis" (PDF/MS Word)
DUE beginning of class
LOCATE & study TERMS in these overviews:
SHM, 71, 88-90, 92-93, 119-32; CP, 15-16
EB articles: "karma," "Sadhu & Swami," "Nataraja,"
& "Hinduism: Sacred Texts" (p.1-2, 45, 65-72)
view excerpts from "Water" (@ local stores)

Wed, May 5    TRA #4
DUE beginning of class
LOCATE & study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:
Narayan, *The Guide*--download study guide (if not in CP)
Raheja & Gold, "A Storyteller's Story" (CP, 83-88)

[2nd half:]  team assignment 4a    REVIEW IN DEPTH:
Raheja & Gold, "A Storyteller's Story" (CP, 83-88)

Wed, May 12    "Final Guided Reflection worksheet" * DUE beginning of class
LOCATE & study EXCERPTS in these primary sources:

http://www.csus.edu/indiv/d/duboisj/WM/WMsPM_home.html
[2nd half:] team assignment 4c REVIEW IN DEPTH:  Unit 4 Source Analysis
*notes from "Water"
(PDF/ MS Word)
DUE Mon, 5/17
@ MND 2016 by 5 pm

CHOSE ONE item in this list for the source
analysis:

- "Fire" (@ LMC & local stores)
- Listen to the Heron's Words, p.149-163 (@ RBR)
- McKim Marriott, "The Feast of Love" (@ RBR)
- "What the Bleep Do We Know?" (@ local stores)
- "Baraka: a World Beyond Words" (@ LMC)
- "Hinduism: History" (p.18-28)
- "Hinduism: Veda " (p.46-57)
- "Buddhism: the Buddha & India " (p.2-14)
- SHM, 138-47

[Any of these sources may also be used for EXTRA CREDIT]

Wed, May 19 view excerpt from
"What the Bleep Do We Know?"
final team assignment

*follow-up Guided Reflection*
DUE beginning of class

WARNING: Barring submission of a petition for an incomplete and in contrast to my late policy during the semester, no final guided reflections will be accepted after the beginning of class of the final class session.

Also, if you wish to retrieve your final guided reflection, please attach to your paper a self-addressed stamped envelope (4" x 9" is usually OK if unless your paper is unusually thick) with sufficient postage for 3 ounces (currently $0.76 or two first-class stamps). Papers submitted without an envelope will receive only minimal comments and eventually be recycled without shredding.

Introductory Essay & Sample Stories

Team Assignment Prep & Follow-Up

Frequently Asked Questions

Storytelling & Guided Reflections

OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST:

- "Africa: Myths & Realities" (ETHN 010)
- "Native American Religion & Philosophy" (ETHN 050)
- "Arts & Ideas of Asia" (HRS 70 & 71)
- "Introduction to World Literature in English" (ENGL 065)