CSUS Humanities & Religious Studies Department

HRS 151: World Mythology (HUM C2), Class Nbr 30259 sect 1. SPRING 2018 Syllabus

"Omne ignotum pro magnifico" - "all we do not know is miraculous" said Tacitus, or simply, Mythical...

Part 1: Course Information

Course Information

Class Meeting: Section 01, Days: MWF, Time: 09:00 AM – 09:50 AM Place: Room MND # 2009

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Clovis Karam Office: MND 3032 Office Hours: Mondays 10:00 to 11:00, Tuesdays 3:00 to 4:00, Wednesdays 1:45 to 2:45, or by appointment Office Telephone: (916) 278-5040 (during office hours). E-mail: <u>clovis.karam@csus.edu</u> Faculty Website <u>http://www.csus.edu/faculty/k/clovis.karam/index.html</u>

Catalogue 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**.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of world mythology and its relationship to ancient and current cultures. The course surveys world mythology by concentrating on heroic literature, the epic in its oral tradition, and its relationship to types of myths such as foundation myths, creation myths, flood myths, apocalyptic and environmental ones. By emphasizing the myth of the folk and the lore of early societies, the course will also draw from similarities among the great mythos of world cultures and the history of the development of hierarchies and civilizations as seen in myths as well as epics. To better understand the purposes, types of myths, their development, characters, and the common elements of mythological structures, we will propose a historical comparative approach for the study of various myth theories proposed by Plato, Euhemerus, Maxim of Tyr and F. Wilhelm Schelling, Frederic Creuzer, Sir James Frazer, and Ernst Cassirer to name a few. A special attention will be given to the predominant characteristics of deities, symbols, archetypes, and sacred places in myth as defined by Eliade Mircea in "The Sacred and the Profane", and to the contemporary theories of mythology advanced by Joseph Campbell in his "Power

of Myth". Eva Thury, author of our text book, will lead us to how myth shapes our contemporary cultures according to Claude Levy-Strauss' structuralism & C. G. Jung's innovation on myth and feminine perspective. In the Last resort, we will discuss the effects of the "demythization" that destroyed in the process the real beauty of the myth, by tearing down its mask and Kerygma. This course is designed to explore a variety of texts involving World Mythology from various cultures including: a) Near & Middle Eastern Cosmic Myths of the Beginnings, Chaos/Creation, Regeneration/ Dissolution, Father/Mother, Quest Myths, from Mesopotamia (Gilgamesh), Egypt, and the Bible, b) Fertility, Death/Rebirth/Resurgence/Resurrection, Flood/Destruction and Eschatological Myths and Afterlife, from Ugarit, Phoenicia, the Bible and Christianity, c) Rituals and Myths from Celtic, European Chivalric Song of Roland, Germanic Nibelungenlied, Anglo-Saxon Beowulf, Norse/Icelandic saga d) Myths, Folktale, and Shamanism, from Mesoamerica, Mexico, Native American, Africa, China, Indian Ramayana, Polynesia and Australia, Arabian and Persian tales of One and Thousand Nights, d) Explore Contemporary and Literature Myths, articles, stories, novels, plays, epics, and films selected from the different cultures and time zones.

Course Objectives:

- 1- The purpose of this course in World Mythology is to acquaint the students with the universal character of myths, epics, Folktales, archetypal heroes, symbols, and genres found in a cross section of cultures from east to west and from north to south.
- 2- Apply major contemporary theories used to explain and analyze myths, such as comparative, psychological, socio-cultural, functionalist, structuralist, and feminist perspective.
- 3- Help students expand on the communality, universality, and organic interdisciplinary relationships between mythology and various disciplines as history, geography, archeology, religion, philosophy, psychology, sociology, cultural anthropology, biology and environmental studies.
- 4- To Understand how mythology pervades myriads aspects of our cultures in many subtle ways, especially in terms of our conception of sacred/profane time/space in life.
- 5- To Demonstrate the role and place of myth in our contemporary global art and culture.
- 6- Expose students and explore with them new vocabulary, resource materials and selected visual documentaries and films, extremely valuable in the development of our world myth study.

Part 2: Textbook & Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Introduction to Mythology, Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths. Fourth Edition. By Eva M. Thury & Margaret K. Devinney. Oxford University Press. ISBN13:9780190262983. Available and can be purchased from the Hornet Bookstore.

Recommended Texts & Supplementary Readings

Two groundbreaking works by two of the greatest authorities on myth, symbols, and rituals. The Sacred and The Profane, the Nature of Religion by Mircea Eliade. A harvest bool, Harcourt INC. ISBN -13: 978-0156792011.

The Power of Myth, by Joseph Campbell & Bill Moyers. Publisher Anchor. ISBN9780307794727.

Gilgamesh, by Stephen Mitchell. A New English Version. ISBN 978-0-7432-6169-2

The Inland Whale, by Theodora Kroeber, any edition.

World Mythology, by Roy Willis, General Editor. A Henry Holt Reference Book. ISBN 0-8050-2701-7 Bulfinch's Mythology, by Thomas Bulfinch. Canterbury Classics. ISBN 978-1-62686-169-5 Check availability of those books at the "On Reserve "section at the CSUS main library.

Part 3: Course Objectives

GE Area C2 Learning Outcomes //www.csus.edu/acaf/ge/ge-area-criteria-and-outcomes.html

Students who complete a GE Area C2 course should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities;
- Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles of 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;
- Explain the historical and cultural significance of the major phenomena within the period(s) and region(s) studies;
- Compare the basic values of the people/cultures studied; and
- Recreate and participate into the ongoing epic of Being, Becoming and Overcoming.

Objectives	Practical Goals	Assessment Tools
Discover & investigate major	Reflect on the meaning of the	Group discussions and group and
patterns and social causes of	phenomenon of myth.	individual presentations-enacting
myth-making. The guiding theme	Demonstrate competence in	emphasized.
of our study will be the Sacred	discerning religious, historical,	Quizzes
and the Profane, and the Power of	functional, philosophical, political,	Reading reports & Term Papers.
Myth.	sociological 'topics' approach &	
	concepts' analysis of myth in	
	general.	
Explore most of the archetypal	Identify, integrate, and develop a	Acquisition of needed writing and
symbolic in world mythology, and	wider and deeper understanding,	hermeneutic tools:
in-depth comparative analysis of	tolerance, and sound	Linguistics, philology, structure,
major myths and theories.	argumentation for myth making	clarity, logic, grammar & syntax.
	and justification.	

Part 4: Topic Outline/Schedule

Important Note: Please always if not daily; refer to the Black Board course readings and assignments, and for specific meeting dates and times. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at

clovis.karam@csus.edu

Week	Topic/Lecture, and or Power Point, plus	Readings / Assignments
	Learning Mythology Through Film	
1	In the Beginnings There Was Only Myth.	will be posted on Blackboard
	Introduction to Syllabus.	Chapter 1-
	Archeology of the Human Mind.	What is Myth? P 1 to 18. Textbook: Contemporary Approaches to
	• Time Zone, Mythology & Religion	Classical and World Mythology. By Eva Thury – Margaret Devinney, Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press.
	Methodology & hermeneutics.	
	What is Myth?	Assignment #1: What is your favorite myth, and the insights obtained from it? Please respond in writing on your
	• The Universal Hunger for Meaning.	dedicated HRS 151 note book, by using the grid on page 14 of TB as an example.
	Ways of Understanding Myth.	Due in class for discussion on Friday.
2	Theories of Symbolic and Archetypal Facts in the Philosophy of Mythology: Frederic Creuzer and F. Wilhelm Schelling.	
	 Pythagoras: From Chaos to Cosmos. From Mythos to Logos, Appearance, and Reality & the Mystical Logos. Maxim of Tyr and the universality of myth & Kerygma. Mythology condemned as absolute error by Fontenelle, or as relative error, by Spinoza and Abbe Bannier. Regression, plagiarism, reductionist theories and "Revelation Dignium", by Samuel Bochart & D. Huet. Eusebius Praeparatio Evangelica Versus Porphyry's Sanconiaton and Phylo of Byblos on the Ugaritic-Phoenician Creation Myth. Renan, Lagrange, and Rawlinson "Hypercritic" of mythology and Biblical texts. 	Readings from assigned Textbook: Chapter 2- Ways of Understanding Myth. TB. P 18 to 24. Myth of Creation and Destruction TB. p 25-28 The Bible, Genesis Creation TB. P 56-63 Assignment#2 On your note book, please summarize In a grid format (see p 58-59) the Authors of Genesis & Differences between the J-E Writer and the Priestly Writer. Due in class for discussion on Friday.

Week	Topic/Lecture, and or Power Point, plus	Readings / Assignments
	Learning Mythology Through Film	
3		
3		
	Formation of the Group Work Teams &	Assigned readings for each group will be
	Selection of the Term Paper Topics.	announced in class and posted on
		Blackboard for quiz #2 Group
	"In the Beginning there was the Myth"	Presentations.
	Frederic Creuzer and Schelling, and the recognition	Term Papers Themes will be posted on
	of an allegorical meaning to mythology.	Blackboard.
		Readings from TB chapter 6 page 64-84:
	The discovery of a direct meaning to mythology:	Mesopotamia
	Welhelm Schelling, and Mythology as Totegory.	Enuma Elish, the Epic of Creation.
		& Chapt 7, Iceland/Norse Pros Eda
		(Creation). P 85-95
4	Creation Myths and Stories: North America,	Quiz #1 on Monday (on reading
	Africa & China.	materials, PPTS, and lectures from weeks
	• Norty America: Stories from the Zuni,	1-2 & 3)
	Hopi, and Navajo (Southwest): and from	Readings from TB Chapter 8, from Page
	the Iroquois League (Northeastern	97-179
	Woodlands).	*You are requested to submit by email
	Africa: Ouganda and Nigeria.	your subject of choice with a short plan of
	• China: Nu Kwa, Kuan Yin, and Monkey.	your term paper topic. Due on Friday.
	Mesoamerica: Popol Vuh.	
5	Quiz #2 (Groups PPT presentations-Enacting	Quiz #2 Monday through Friday
	on selected materials).	(Groups PPT presentations on selected
	All GW PPT Presentations will be posted on	materials).
	Black Board as essential materials for	Assignment Materials for Quiz #3 GW
	Midterm and Final Exams.	PPT-Enaction Presentations.
6	Interpretation of the Cosmic Cycle:	Selected readings from TB
	Gilgamesh, Bible, & Metamorphose.	p 181 to 210.
		& from Eliade Mircea: The Myth of the
	"myth, then, is always an account of a	Eternal Return: Or Cosmos and History.
1	creation". M.Eliade.	Princeton University Press 1974.
	Creation/Destruction	Readings from TB P 211- 224.
	 Flood/Rainbow 	And Chapter 16:
	Water/Fire	Mesopotamia the Epic of Gilgamesh
		TT P 225-261
	Heroes and Tricksters: Campbell's	Readings from TB P 211- 224.

Week	Topic/Lecture, and or Power Point, plus	Readings / Assignments
	Learning Mythology Through Film	
	Early Psychologist Insights into the Hero.	Mesopotamia the Epic of Gilgamesh
	Joseph Campbell's Insight into Mythology.	TT P 225-261
	The Trickster a Special Kind of hero	Related PPTS will be posted on
	Mythological Heroes.	Blackboard.
		Supplement on Blackboard.
8	Applying Theory: A Levi-Straussian Analysis	TB readings, Chapter 17- PP 262 to 272.
	of the Epic of Gilgamesh & The Structural	And P 439-466
	Study of Myth.	Supplemented materials will be posted on
	Levy-Strauss' Analysis of Language.	the Blackboard.
	Nature and Culture in the Epic of	Quiz#4 GW PPT Assignment TB:
	Gilgamesh.	-India, The Ramayana, P273-291
		Iceland/Norse Prose Edda P 292-306
		-The Arthurian Legend. The Holy Grail
		TB P 307-348
		-Africa, The Mwindo Epic P 349-386.
		-North America Raven P 456-466
		-African and African American Trickster
	Quiz #3 Group Work PPT Presentations of	Stories. P 461-482.
	assigned materials. Due today on Friday.	-Different Versions of Myth. P 490-498.
9	Rituals and Myth. Eliade's Theory and	Readings from Mircea Eliade "The sacred
	Application.	and the Profane". supplemented texts.
	What does rituals have to do with	Blackboard.
	mythology?	TB P 499-503
	• The passive/active participation in myth.	The Forest of Symbols P 505-518
	• The characteristics of rituals.	Egypt, Isis and Osiris P 538-553
	• The ritual as a drama in society.	Meals in the Bible P 554-565.
	Changing beliefs: Rationalization,	The Rituals of Iceland: Ellis Davidson TB
	Syncretism, and Euhemerism.	p 566-584
	Dreams and Myth & Man and His symbols	
	C.G.Jung.	
	The Unconscious and the Scientific View of	TB readings from P 605- to 628.
	the Meaning of Dreams.	
	The Archetype in dream symbolism and	And P 629-639.
	Interpretation.	Supplemented texts will be provided.
	The process of Individuation.	
	• The Anima: The Woman Within & The	
	Animus, The Man Within.	
	• The Self: Symbols of Totality.	
	Applying Theory: Jungian Analysis.	
		Mid Term on Previous Materials.

Week	Topic/Lecture, and or Power Point, plus	Readings / Assignments
	Learning Mythology Through Film	
10	Mircea Eliade Theory Application: "The Sacred and the Profane, The Significance of Religious Myth, Symbolism, and Ritual within life Culture". And" Myth of the Eternal Return, Or Cosmos and History". • Sacred Space and Making the World	Related PPT will be posted on Blackboard. Readings on Mircea Eliade from The Sacred and the Profane, and The Eternal Return. Available "on reserve" at the main campus library.
	 Sacred. Origin Myths and sacred Time. Epiphany & Theophany. The Nostalgia for Origins and the Desire to a Primordial Paradise. Archetype theory and the difference with C.G Jung. The Sacredness of Nature and Cosmic religion. Human Existence and Sanctified Life. 	
11	Quiz #4 (Groups PPT presentations on	Quiz #4 (Groups PPT presentations on
	assigned materials Friday.	assigned materials.
12	 Folktale and Myth: Classifying Tales. Theory: The Morphology of the Folktale. Propp's System and Analysis. The Functions of Dramatis Personae. Proppian Analysis of the Wizard of Oz. Grimm's Household Tales. Highlighting Different Aspects of the Same Tale Using Multiple Analyses. Arabian and Persian tales of One and Thousand Nights. 	TB readings from P 641- 694 Readings from TB P 714-722 Readings from TB P 723-726. TB P 727-742.
	Contemporary Myth. From Gilgamesh. The Bible, to Asterix, Star Wars and Spider-Man.	

Week	Topic/Lecture, and or Power Point, plus	Readings / Assignments	
	Learning Mythology Through Film		
	Building the Myth around the Man.		
13	The Journey into the Unknown in	Readings from TB P 743 -756	
	Westerns and Science Fiction.		
14	Literature and Myth and Narrative Materials.	Readings from TB P 787-830.	
	Changing Views on Using Myth in	And	
	Literature.	833- 866.	
	• Fairy Tales in Literature.		
	Poetry and Myth.		
	Native American Oral Myth in a		
	Contemporary Context: Yellow Woman.		
	Study Mythology Broaden Cultural		
	Understanding.		
	Modern Writers Use Myths to Comment on		
	Individual Human Concerns.		
	Modern Writers Use Mythological Allusion		
	to Enrich their Work.	Harvest Days period: Term Papers	
	Mythological Elements Provide the Reader	due date and optional presentations	
	with Interpretive Choices.	scheduling.	
15	Epilogue and Harvest Days: Collection and	Quiz # 5 Revision on Basic Materials.	
	Presentations of the Term Paper Projects	Friday in class.	
16	EXAM WEEK	Good Luck	
	Spring Recess		

Part 4: Course Activities and Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Points	Description		
10%	5 quizzes on lectures & reading assignments: You are responsible for completing each		
	assigned reading for each class day before the start of class. Each quiz covers all		
	lectures and reading assignments since the previous quiz, including the reading		
	assignment for the day of the quiz, and must be taken at the beginning of the class		
	period for which the reading is assigned.		
30%	Midterm Exam: The midterm exam contains several questions that must be answe		
	during class using handwritten short (one paragraph long) answers; the exam is		
	about four pages long.		
20%	Term Paper: You will be assigned a topic. Late term papers will go down one full		
	grade for every day past the due date. Attach your paper as an editable file that will		

Points	Description	
	open Microsoft Word (not a .pdf or .html file).	
30%	Final Exam: Essay type questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions since the Midterm.	
10%	Each student will earn 5 points for regular attendance and 5 points for: participation in class discussions, taking notes in the dedicated Note Book (inspected during the Mid Term and Final Exam days), and Group Work Presentations, for a total of 10 points. Only justified absences are accepted.	

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. A 10% penalty will be applied on each late day or missed quiz per calendar day from due date.

Viewing Grades in SacCT

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points. I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been completed—typically 5 days following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your SacCT home page under the link to this course.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Term Paper

HRS 151 is an interdisciplinary course par excellence. I encourage students to consider the term paper as an essential life project in their academic years, regardless of the major. The word requirement for the term paper is set at a minimum of 2500 words, and of a maximum of 2800 words. Students could explore any subject which deal with mythological references to the Humanities or any discipline. Other students might wish to complete a project of their selection about the aspect of mythology which particularly interests them. This may require further readings, or it might be creative and unique expression of student's interest in myths. Inventive topics, thematic and creative literary contemporary style are highly appreciated. Power points and documentaries are also encouraged but only upon professor's approval. All references should be cited correctly.

Writing Guidelines:

Please check with the University Reading & Writing Center CLV 128: writingcenter@csus.edu

Quiz

This class will have a total of 5 quizzes, the first and the last will be individual written quizzes, the other 3 will be Group Work Presentation-Enacting quizzes. I will under no circumstances reset a GW quiz you have not taken. It's your responsibility to figure out how to take tests and keep track on due dates. You will automatically lose all the points for each missed quiz.

Exams

All my exams are written exams and take place in the assigned classroom, no blue books

needed.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
А	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
В	83-86%	Good Work
В-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C +	77-79%	Above Average Work
С	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Important note: For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the <u>academic policies and</u> <u>grading section</u> of the university catalog.

Part 5: Course & University Policies

Attendance & Participation

I will take attendance regularly. Students are expected to always attend and participate in class group activities and report for assigned readings. Excessive unjustified absences (more than 3) and repetitive negative participation in class will result in the loss of 1 point up to losing all the 5% or the totality of the allocated grades. Laptops and similar devices are not permitted in my classes.

Make-up Exams

There will be no make-up exams, except for justified absences; otherwise a 10% reduction will apply. Stick to the calendar.

Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment

except under extreme circumstances.

All assignments must be completed according to the listed due date and time. Late or missing assignments are only permitted under extreme and compelling circumstances; otherwise, the grade will be reduced by 1 point per calendar day from the beginning of the due date, or 0 for no submission.

Bonus Points Opportunities

Extra 6 points bonus will be earned by those: a-who demonstrate an appetite for extra curriculum readings and reports on traced borrowed books from CSUS main library & for those who come and visit me during my office hours for extra discussion(2 pts), b-for the best presentation of the term papers on the Harvest Day ((2pts), c- for those attending and submitting cumulative analysis reports on the HRS Department lectures, symposium etc., and active participation in the debates of the future "Mythology CLUB" (2pts) in collaboration with the Joseph Campbell Foundation: JCF Mythological RoundTable Group of Sacramento.

Website: meetup.com/JCF-MRT-SAC/

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dis-enrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the <u>Office of Services to Students with</u> <u>Disabilities</u> (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

SSWD is in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at <u>sswd@csus.edu</u>.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Misbehavior will be met with a loss of 1point per incident from final course grade. Turnitin.com will be used for plagiarism detection on essays.

Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars

and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades." Read more about Sac State's <u>Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures</u>

Definitions

At Sac State, "**cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work using any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Penalty will be 0.

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At Sac State, "plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgment of that person's contribution." It will be sanctioned with 0.

Part 6: University Resources

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides encouraging, focused, and non-judgmental one-to-one tutorials in writing. Their tutors can help with writing at all points in the process, from initial planning and organizing through developing and revising a paper. You can bring the assignment to them for help.

Sac State Library

The Sac State Library's webpage is http://library.csus.edu. To find a book or periodical, go to http://onesearch.csus.edu/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do

I particularly recommend Sac State librarian Lisa Roberts' website "Philosophy: Resources." Two ways to find it: through "Research Guides" under "Resources and Collections", or go directly to <u>http://library.csus.edu/guides/robertsl/philoguide.htm</u>

Student Computer Labs

To access SacCT from campus, or use any of the other campus online resources, you can use the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. See University Labs website, that is, http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

SacCT

SacCT is the course management system used on the Sac State campus for web-assisted courses. To access a course on SacCT, you must login from the SacCT Login Page (https://online.csus.edu).

To learn more about SacCT visit the Student Resources webpage (http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) where you can view online Tutorials, FAQ's and other

help resources.

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through SacCT email.