General Course Description:
This course offers a general introduction to the nature and function of myth. The specific material studied will be exclusive of classical mythology and the breadth of the subject matter will vary in content. The mythology of at least four world cultures will be covered each term. The teaching format of the class will be lecture with discussion as time allows and when appropriate to examination of the topics.

Specific Focus of This Section:
This section will examine specific mythology of the Near East, South Pacific, Northern Europe and North America. (Because mythology encompasses vast amounts of often complex and esoteric information, our studies cannot be comprehensive, but are designed as introductions and hopefully will inspire interest and further study.) In addition to reading and discussion of primary source materials, this course will include an exploration of scholarly theoretical approaches regarding the role and function of myth within different cultural contexts.

N.B. Very Important Note Regarding Course Materials!
The required reading materials for this course are being re-evaluated in an effort to reduce costs for students. Updated sources for materials will be forthcoming. Students are advised to check Saclink email and BlackBoard often over the course of the semester as information, readings and resources will be posted or emailed. The following titles are required and available in formats as listed (Prices listed are mostly for used materials and current as of the development of this syllabus, 1/12/2015. These titles were not ordered from the University Bookstore and therefore will not be available in the bookstore for this section! Prices listed are not guaranteed, but merely provided as examples so students can approximate costs for materials:

- Paperback (from $5.94), Audiobook (from $7.02) - Available used from various vendors;
- Kindle available (from $9.99); one hard copy available from CSUS library

- Paperback (from $5.99), Audiobook (from $14.95) - Available used from various vendors;
- Kindle available (from $9.99)

- Paperback (from $4.11), Audiobook (from $10.95) - Available used from various vendors;
- Kindle available (from $8.52); one hard copy available from CSUS library

- Paperback (from $3.11 –non-classics edition 1986)), Audiobook (from $14.95) - Available used from various vendors; Kindle available (from $12.92); two hard copies available from CSUS library.

Additional Reading will be required and made available through SAC CT BlackBoard.

!!! Check BlackBoard and Saclink email often for additional reading assignments and information !!!!
Course Objectives:
Successful students will:
- acquire a thorough understanding of the definition of myth and its purpose as an important expression of culture.
- be familiar with the essential mythology of the featured societies and be able to draw cross-cultural comparisons.
- develop an understanding of how modern theorists have approached the study of myth.
- recognize and appreciate the continuing influence and value of mythology in the arts and society.

Requirements and Grading:
Careful and thoughtful reading and writing are fundamental aspects of this course, therefore, it is essential to complete all reading assignments and be attentive to lecture materials and presentations. (Take notes!) Attendance is required as per departmental attendance policy—grade reductions (and more importantly, loss of educational experience!) will result from excessive absences.

Respectful participation in class discussions is encouraged and may affect your overall grade favorably.* Disrespectful conduct, including, but not limited to, cell phone activity, playing on computers, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, disruptive behavior, etc..., will affect your participation grade unfavorably. If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, come late, etc..., please discuss with me.

*IMPORTANT! If you are a student who experiences anxiety simply at the thought of speaking up in class, please see me or email me for helpful strategies and tips for reducing stress and improving your learning experience. I consider all students equally important to the classroom dynamic.

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in grade penalties or other serious consequences as per university policies. This can be very detrimental to your goals—don’t do it!!!

Course grades are determined by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Attendance and Participation‡</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped)**+ (25 points each)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Mid-term writing assignment **•</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Paper (3-5 pages)</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Final**- short essay and multiple choice</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>300</td>
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A         ------300-277 points
A-       ------276-268 points
B+        ------267-261 points
B          ------260-246 points
B-        ------245-237 points
C+         ------236-230 points
C           ------229-216 points
C-         ------215-206 points
D+        ------205-199 points
D          ------198-186 points
D-        ------185-175 points
!

‡ The attendance and participation grade is determined by the following point distribution: accumulated by good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (10 pts), reading responses and journaling (25 pts) and some exciting miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (10 pts).‡

+ For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E; for the Midterm you will need a bluebook (any size you are comfortable with is okay); for the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

* The Midterm writing assignment is an exercise in primary source identification, analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. If you have completed assigned readings and have an attentive presence in class you will be well-prepared for the Midterm. More detailed information will be given closer to the exam date.

Final Exam: The final will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. It will only be comprehensive as it pertains to basic, theoretical concepts and practices in the study of myth and basic knowledge of our focus cultures. The greater emphasis will be on the material covered in the second half of the semester. You will need Scantron form 886-E for the final.
**New Makeup Policies for Spring 2015! Please take note!** All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writings or the final. (Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. If you absolutely need to leave during a quiz, writing assignment or final exam, you must turn your paper in before you leave the room and it will be graded based on work completed to that point.) Due to excessive requests for makeups the following policies will be strictly adhered to: Requests will be considered and granted on a case by case basis only when extenuating circumstances or medical issues are documented. **All quiz/midterm makeups granted will be taken in the CSUS Testing Center.** Students are responsible for making arrangements and paying fees. No final exams will be given before finals week. No exceptions.

Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

!!!! Check BlackBoard often for additional readings and information !!!!
*Online assignment posted on BlackBoard! If BlackBoard fails, assignment will be sent via SacSend. Due on April 7th!*

**Week 11 - APR 7, 9**
Mythology of the Pacific Islands; Maori Creation Cycle; Maori Cosmogony and creation stories. Pacific Islands continued.

**Week 12 – APR 14, 16**
Read: Leslie Silko’s *Ceremony* (1-72)
Apr 16: Topic for Paper Handed Out!
Apr 16: Quiz # 3

**Week 13- APR 21, 23**
Native North American Mythology; The Native American Cultural Context; Native American creation and trickster myths.
Read: Continue reading *Ceremony* (72-102)

**Week 14 – APR 28, 30**
Native North American Mythology cont.
Read: *Ceremony* (102-176)
Apr 30: Quiz # 4

**Week 15 – MAY 5, 7**
Native North American Mythology cont.
Read: *Ceremony* (176-230)

**Week 16 – MAY 12, 14**
Discussion of *Ceremony* and the role of myth in the modern world.
Read: *Ceremony* (230-finish)

**Week 17 – MAY 19**
FINAL EXAM! 12:45-2:45
PAPER DUE TODAY AT 12:45!