Catalogue description: HRS 151, World Mythology. 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.

Specific Focus of This Section:
This section will examine representative 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. The teaching format of the class will be lecture, however, active participation is encouraged to enrich students’ learning experience and promote engagement with the topics.

N.B. Very Important Note Regarding Course Materials!
Additional Reading will be required and made available through SAC CT Blackboard and free eBooks from CSUS library. In addition to the titles listed below, efforts have been made to greatly reduce costs for students by including course readings available through free online sources, including the CSUS library. Students are advised to check Saclink email and Blackboard often over the course of the semester as additional information for readings and resources will be posted or emailed.

The hornet symbol on calendar denotes assigned reading available from eBooks through the CSUS library.

Reading materials which must be purchased (these are widely available used):
Leslie Marmon Silko: Ceremony, Penguin Books, 1986. (or any newer edition is fine.)

Course Learning Outcomes:
Successful students in HRS 151- World Mythology will:
- demonstrate a sophisticated knowledge of the general foundations of World Mythology gained by careful examination of primary source materials in literature, oral traditions, the visual arts and traditional crafts or cultural enterprises appropriate for study. Secondary resources in readings and film will provide additional material when considered worthy and applicable.

- investigate, describe and analyze the function of World Mythology as an expression of human culture and advance their sensitivity in understanding the variety and value in all cultural traditions in myth. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of the relationship between mythology and social practices, religion, environmental concerns and psychological expression as well as how World Mythology may reflect the currents or changes in culture.

- compare and analyze World Mythology as a way to communicate ideas about the universal human experience; that is, the origins and purpose of being human in relation to the gods, nature, and time. Students will demonstrate their understanding of common themes and ideas in World Mythology which have expression in many cultures (examples include themes of death, creation and the relationship between individual needs and values and those of the community.)
-recognize the influence and elements of World Mythology as expressed in art and literature in the present as well as the past (such as inspiration for different cultural trends, political ideas or social values and ideals) and develop an appreciation for the integration of aspects of World Mythology into the social vocabulary cross-culturally.

-develop an understanding of how modern theorists from many disciplines have approached the study of myth for analysis and used myth as a resource for advancing their own ideas and understanding of human culture.

Requirements and Grading:
Careful reading and thoughtful 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!) Students can expect to advance their skills of critical analysis in reading and writing on the subject of World Mythology.

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.

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.
F            ---------≤ 174

Course grades are determined by the following:
18% -Attendance and Participation†------------------------------------55 points
25% -Quizzes** (4-lowest grade dropped-25 points each) ---------75 points
17% - Mid-term exam+** essay and multiple choice ---------------50 points
15% - Paper◊ (5-6 pages)-------------------------------------------45 points
25% - Final exam+** essay and multiple choice----------------------75 points
100%------------------------------------------300 points

It is your responsibility as a committed student to keep track of your point total and manage your study habits accordingly. This will eliminate grade "surprises" at the end of the semester.

† The attendance and participation grade is earned by the following point distribution: accumulated by good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (10 pts), reading responses (25 pts) and some exciting s “TBA” opportunities (10 pts).☺! Ask me!

** New Testing and Makeup Policies beginning fall 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 for makeups 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. Appointments must be made with at least 2 weeks “lead time” so I can prepare a makeup test and send to testing center. If a request for a makeup is granted, we can discuss specific information for coordinating timeframe.

• No final exams will be given before finals week. No exceptions. If you need to miss the final, it is your responsibility to meet with me to discuss the requirements of an Incomplete grade.

+ For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E; for the Midterm and Final you will need Scantron 886-E.

◊ Specific Information on the paper assignment will be forthcoming in adequate time for completion before due date. (You will also have opportunities for feedback and editing in order to improve your writing assignment prior to the final due date.)

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 !!!!

Course Calendar

Week 1 -- 1/25 & 1/28
Introduction to the course; understanding myth in the scholarly and cultural context; syllabus; defining myth.
Read: Karen Armstrong’s A Short History of Myth (hereafter referred to as KA) What is Myth? (1-11).

Week 2 – 2/1 & 2/3
Categorizing myth; understanding the history and functions of myth.
Access additional reading and information on BlackBoard
Read: KA The Paleolithic Period (12-40) and The Neolithic Period (41-57)

Week 3 – 2/8 & 2/10
Focus on theory: C. G. Jung, Levi-Strauss, Eliade, Campbell
Functions of myth continued. Myths of Egypt.

Douglas, Mary: IJS Studies in Judaica, Vol 5 : Imagining Creation - Introduction (1-14)

Leeming, David Adams World of Myth, "Dimensions of Myth.” (1-9)

Week 4 – 2/15 & 2/17
A little bit of Egypt...
Read: Leeming, David Adams World of Myth : An Anthology, “Gods of Heliopolis” (95-96); “…Geb and Nut” (97-98);
“Osiris”(65-67 ); “Osiris and Isis” (147-153 )
Monday →Quiz #1

Week 5 – 2/22 & 2/24
Read: KA Early Civilizations (58-78)


Leeming, David Adams World of Myth : An Anthology, “Enuma Elish” (18-24); “Utnapishtim” (44-47).
Week 6 – 2/29 & 3/2
Mesopotamia and Gilgamesh continued.
Mesopotamian mythology; Mesopotamian cosmogony and creation; the *Epic of Gilgamesh*
Read: Stephen Mitchell’s *Epic of Gilgamesh* (hereafter referred to as SM) (1-90)

Week 7 – 3/7 & 3/9
Gilgamesh cont...
Read: SM (91-199)
Wednesday → Quiz # 2

Week 8 – 3/14 & 3/16
Northern European Mythology: The cultural context of myth in Northern Europe; the Norse pantheon;
Introduction to *Beowulf*.
Read: *Beowulf* (Intro and 3-81)

(Introduction 1-38 and Mythic Time 39-46) Special note! This is an eBook available from the CSUS library free!

Leeming, David Adams *World of Myth : An Anthology*, “Aesir” (118-121); “Yggdrasil” (44-47); “Ragnarok” (85-88)

| MIDTERM |

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK!!!! Keep Reading! Be Safe!!! Have Fun!!!

Week 10 – 3/28 & 3/30
Pagan and Christian values and ideas in myth; the heroic code.
Read: *Beowulf* cont. (83-finish)

Week 11—4/4 & 4/6
Mythology of the Pacific Islands; Maori Creation Cycle; Maori Cosmogony and creation stories.
Pacific Islands continued.
Paper Topic Handed out this week!
Read: *Legends of Pele* on ulukau.org-the Hawaiian Electronic Library ( go to ulukau.org and enter ‘Hawai’i Island Legends’ in the search box – you can change the language to English if you can’t read Hawaiian;) in the upper right corner of site — a book list will appear after you click search and you will find a book of this title (Hawai’i Island Legends). Click on the icon and then go to: chapter 2 for stories of the recently very active Pele! (27-66)

Week 12 – 4/11 & 4/13
Read: Leslie Silko’s *Ceremony* ( 1-72)

Leeming, David Adams *World of Myth : An Anthology*, “Spider Woman” (36-39); “Kachinas” (72-75);
“Hopi Emergence” (84-85); “Water Jar Boy” (221-224); “Hiawatha” (267-274)

Topic for Paper Handed Out!
Monday → Quiz # 3

Week 13 – 4/18 & 4/20
Native North American Mythology; The Native American Cultural Context; Native American creation and trickster myths.
Read: Continue reading *Ceremony* (72-102)

Leeming, David Adams *World of Myth : An Anthology*, “…Coyote” (169-171);

Week 14 – 4/25 & 4/27
Native North American Mythology cont.
Read: *Ceremony* (102-176)
Week 15 – 5/2 & 5/4
Native North American Mythology cont.
Read: *Ceremony* (176-230) Discussion of *Ceremony* and the role of myth in the modern world.

Week 16—5/9 & 5/11
Finish discussion of Ceremony and course wrap-up/summary.
Read: *Ceremony* (230-finish)
Wednesday→Quiz # 4

Week 17 – 5/16 @pm 12:45-2:45pm Final Exam (and paper due at 12:45pm.)