

Humanities 155

Mythology

Cuyamaca College

Section: 5454

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Online Class

Instructor: Bruce McGraw

Semester: Spring 2011

I. Course Description: Analysis of myths representing a variety of cultural areas. Emphasis is on a multiplicity of cultures with particular attention to cross cultural influences. It includes study of the function of myth and symbol and relation to the arts, philosophy, history, religion and our everyday life.

This is an “Online” Course. This means that this Mythology course will take place online. Regular “homework” assignments and activities will also figure among the course’s requirements. It should be noted that in an online class, students must take a greater responsibility for their own learning. With no in-class sessions, it falls on the student to ask questions (online) when something is not clear. For personal matters, you can email me with your questions. For more general questions, please put your questions on a “Questions” thread that will be available on the discussion board. All students should feel free to participate in answering these questions, especially if you see the question before I do and you can assist your fellow classmate.

Internet and E-Mail: Because this course is an online course, you will need to utilize the Internet and e-mail in order to fulfill the requirements of this course. For those who do not have a computer with Internet access at home, as well as those whose home systems are malfunctioning, computers and Internet access are available in the open lab of the Learning Resource Center (LRC). If you do not already have an e-mail account, a student e-mail account is available for your use.

II. Course Objectives: Student will be able to:

1. Identify analyze, compare and contrast seven major prehistoric and historic cultural areas in terms of the myths they created.
2. Relate myths to our present day life and discover what if any myths we live by now.
3. The myths we will study will come from a vast number of areas including:
 1. Middle Eastern (including Egyptian)
 2. Greco-Roman
 3. Far Eastern

4. African
5. The British Isles
6. The Americas
7. Northern Europe

4. Identify, analyze, compare and contrast the relationship of themes and symbols in myths to humanistic values of individual growth.

5. Identify, analyze and discuss the relationship between the themes expressed in groups of myths and the corresponding values of the cultures from which they originate.

6. Identify analyze and discuss the distinction between oral tradition in the transmission of myths and the physical artifacts that have preserved them.

7. Identify, analyze and discuss the relationship between mythology and history, philosophy, religion and the arts.

8. Analyze, contrast and compare themes and archetypes of mythology that recurs across the boundaries of geography and history, for example, myths of the cosmos, the heroic journey quest, the archetypal goddesses and gods and the sacred places.

9. Analyze, contrast and compare contemporary symbols, images and themes that are expressions of archetypes and mythological patterns.

10. Analyze, contrast and compare Eastern, Middle Eastern and Western philosophical and mythological discourse.

11. Analyze, contrast and compare theological and mythological discourse.

III. Text: *The World of Myth* by David Adams Leeming

Videos: (You don't need to buy them, but of course you can if you want. They are on reserve at the Cuyamaca Library)

 The Power of Myth (Bill Moyers and Joseph Campbell)

 The Global Brain

 The Mythology of Star Wars (Bill Moyers and George Lucas)

 The Ad and the Ego

 You may also find them at local libraries where you can check them out.

IV. Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures via Power Point Presentations
2. Discussion Boards
3. Video tapes
4. Homework assignments

V. Assignments:

1. Reading: Students must read the assigned pages in the text book before participating in the online discussion boards. This is essential to keep the quality of the discussion at a high level.

2. Online Quizzes: On occasion there may be an online quiz covering the reading assignment for the online work for that week. Students must take the online quiz before participating in the Discussion Boards.

3. Homework: Students must complete and turn in all homework assignments by the due in order to get credit for discussion boards. Credit will be given for students who complete this assignment before each class. **Under the Assignment's Link on Blackboard students will be able to click on the homework assignment, complete it and submit it through that same homework assignment link.** It can either be submitted as an attachment or pasted into the submission box. A zero will be given to students who neglect to do the assignment. Partial credit will be given for students who do some, but not all of the assignment by the due date. The amount of credit given in this latter situation will be up to the instructor's discretion. **Homework assignments are due on Fridays no later than 11:59pm.**

Completing the written assignments is important for three reasons:

- a. It forces the student to deal more critically with the assigned readings.
- b. It allows the students to become more personally engaged with topics covered in the book. This will enable them to better retain and understand the material
- c. It will generate more class discussion and a deeper involvement with the issues.

4. Video Viewing: There are a number of videos that you will need to view in this class. Copies are on reserve at the Cuyamaca Learning Resource Center (library) at the front desk. They can not be taken out of the library. They must be viewed there. However students can purchase the videos or check them out from other local libraries if they don't want to come on campus. There will also be a list of questions to be answered for each video. **The questions for these videos are under the assignment link and must be submitted in the same fashion as described above under the Homework description. These questions are also due by Friday at 11:59pm.**

5. Essay: There will be one paper due before the last week of class. It should be between 3-5 pages long and double spaced. Possible topics will be listed online. This will enable the student to explore an area of interest that he or she has developed in more depth.

6. Discussion Boards: Each week students must make contributions to the Discussion Boards. On the Discussion Board there will be two questions in which students must respond. Each response will be worth **3** points each. Each response must state a position and give reasons to support that position. **To get full credit, this initial response must be at least 150 words in length and make a significant contribution to the discussion. These initial responses will be**

due by Friday night at 11:59pm

In addition to the initial response to each question, each student must respond to **two** of their fellow classmates' responses to each question. That means four responses in all for this part. Each response must include reasons for agreement or non-agreement with the fellow student's posting. **Each of these responses should be at least 75 words and significantly contribute to the discussion** Each one of these responses is worth one point. **These responses are due by Sunday night at 11:59pm.**

So, each week the Discussion Board will be worth 10 total points toward your final grade. (6pts total for the two initial responses and 4 points total for the four responses to classmates' postings). It is allowable and even encouraged to make more responses than the required minimum. Anything contributed beyond the required minimum obviously are not subjected to any length requirements.

On the Discussion Board I encourage points of view that challenge anything I might say or another student might say, but it must be done in a respectful manner. I believe that contrasting points of view enrich our understanding of any topic. Just be sure to support any ideas you post with reasons and/or examples.

VI. Grades: Your grade will be made up of three exams. Points are also given for completing written homework assignments, the essay, discussion boards and any quizzes that may be given. Extra points can be made by class participation and involvement. The latter will be especially important if your final grade is hovering between two grades. Students absent the day of the test must take the test the next class period unless excused by the instructor. Students not doing this will receive a zero for the test.

VII. Grading System:

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| A: 3 tests (100pts each) | 300pts |
| B: Homework Assignments/Online Quizzes (5pts each) | 120pts (approximately) |
| C: Essay: | 50pts |
| D. Discussion Boards (approximately) | <u>130pts</u> (approximately) |
| Total: | 600pts (approximately) |

90-100 - A
80-89 - B
70-79 - C
60-69 - D
0-59 - F

VIII. Attendance: Regular/Full attendance and participation is absolutely necessary to understand the problems and issues studied in this course. Since this is an online course, absences will be defined as the failure to participate in the discussion board for that week. Non participation will be defined as receiving zero points for that week's discussion postings. You will be limited to 3 of those "absences". On the 4th absence you will be dropped from the course. Please plan well! There are no exceptions. Also, students are not allowed to participate in the discussion boards if they haven't turned in the homework assignment pertaining to that discussion board. For example, if you have not turned in the video questions by Friday, you will

not receive any points for the discussion board on that video.

IX. Agreements:

1. You are to agree to examine the information in this course with an open mind. The nature of education is to learn about things you don't yet know, or about things with which you may disagree. There is no learning in being able to only see your world one way. We will spend a lot of time in this course examining different ways to look at the world and at ourselves. **At no time are you expected to agree with what is presented in this course.** You are expected to participate actively in this course.

2. You agree to observe proper netiquette. Rude or inappropriate postings and comments in this online class are grounds for being suspended from this course and possibly referred for disciplinary action..

3. It is acceptable for you to disagree with anything in this course that is said by me or by another student, but it must be done in a respectful manner. The idea of a humanities/mythology class is to allow students a comfortable atmosphere in which to express their own ideas and opinions about topics discussed.

XII. Class Schedule: The Instructor reserves the right to change the schedule as needed.

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| January | 24-30: Take Syllabus Quiz: must be done by Friday 11:59am Read World of Myth pages 3-8 and 15-23 No video this week |
| February | 4: Last day to drop a Semester-Length Class without a “W” Appearing on your transcripts. Last day to Receive a refund for Semester-Length Classes |
| Jan/Feb | 31-6: Read World of Myth pages 24-29 Video: Watch Campbell, “Myth as Message” Program Two |
| | 7-13: Read World of Myths pages 32-35, 36-42 Video: Watch The Global Brain |
| | 14-20: Read World of Myth pages 43-62 Video: Watch Campbell, “Sacrifice and Bliss” Program Four |
| | 21-27: Test 1 (Sat. 2/26) 8-9:50am Room F-506 |
| Feb/Mar | 31-6: Read World of Myth pages 95-117 No Video |

- 7-13: Read World of Myth pages 134-145
Video: Campbell, "Love and the Goddess" Program Five
- 14-20: Read World of Myth pages 175-183 and 197-199
Video: Campbell, "Masks of Eternity" Program Six
- 21-27: Handout: Osiris.
Test 2: (Sat. 3/26) 8-9:50am Room F-506
- Mar/Apr 28-3: Begin Part III: Hero Myths
Read World of Myth pages 217-224, and 235-237
Video: Campbell, "Hero's Adventure" Program One
- April 4-10: Hero Myths Continued
World of Myth pages 224-225, 237-243, 244-248
Video: Myth of Star Wars
- 11-17: Continue Part III: Hero Myths Continued
World of Myth pages 228-229, 274-281, 281-283
Video: Campbell, "The First Storytellers"
- 15: Last Day to Drop Semester Length Classes**
- 18-24: **Spring Break**
- Apr/May 25-1: Part III: Hero Myths Continued
World of Myth pages 283-287, 292-295, 298-304
- May 2-8: Part III: Hero Myths Continued
World of Myth pages 288-292
- 9-15: Part IV: Place and Object Myths
World of Myth pages 319-330
- 16-22: Finish Part IV Place and Object Myths
World of Myth pages 330-335, 337, 347-348
Video: Ad and the Ego
- 21: 8-9:50am Final Exam: Test 3 in Room F-506**

This course adheres to policies outlined in the Cuyamaca College catalogue. For further information see Academic Policies in the catalogue