JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

ENG250H

HONORS MYTHOLOGY

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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by
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Arts and Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
ENG250H Honors Mythology

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

A. Pre-requisite: None

B. 3 semester hours credit

C. Mythology offers the student a cross-cultural study of mythology ranging from classical Greek and Roman to American Indian, Asian and African. Mythology students will study major cultural works such as The Odyssey, Gilgamesh, King Arthur and the Ramayana. Students will have the opportunity to apply mythic patterns to contemporary art and literature in critical papers. Mythology will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the Associate degree. (F, S)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will identify principal characters, themes and motifs in major world myths.</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
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<td>Students will identify common archetypes and apply archetypal theory to representative world myths</td>
<td>Written Examination</td>
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<td>Students will interpret myths and trace mythic patterns in contemporary literature and culture.</td>
<td>Collaborative group activity</td>
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<td>Students will compare major world myths, noting the interplay between cultural influences and archetypal themes</td>
<td>Small group presentation</td>
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<td>Students will design a class presentation on a culture and its myths.</td>
<td>Class Discussion</td>
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<td>Collaborative group activity</td>
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<td>Small group presentation</td>
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III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

A. Background/terms
   1. Define vocabulary appropriate to the study of mythology.
   2. Identify archetypes and their characteristics.
   3. Explain the purposes of myth and identify three different kinds of myths.

B. Myths of early humans
   1. Explain some interpretations of drawings and artifacts from primitive cultures.
   2. Identify the position of the female principle and the goddess in early cultures.
   3. Recall some historical information about paleolithic humans and the shift to neolithic communities, worship, and myths.

C. Ancient Civilizations: Greece and Rome
   1. Summarize early Greek myths and identify the major figures in these stories.
   2. Explain the purposes of early Greek myths.
   3. Identify principal characters, themes and motifs in *The Iliad*.
   4. Discuss major conflicts and themes in Greek mythology.
   5. Identify principal characters, motifs and themes in *The Aeneid*.
   6. Differentiate between the characteristics of the art and the folk epic.
   7. Recall some historical information about the Roman Empire including its founding by Romulus, its fusion of three peoples (the Etruscans, the Latins, and the “rape of the Sabine Women”), its wars with Carthage, its flourishing under the rule of Caesar Augustus.
   8. List some themes and/or issues of Augustan literature.
   9. Identify those issues or themes as they appear in *The Aeneid*.
   10. Know the similarities and differences between the Greek concept of gods and goddesses and those of the Romans.

D. Ancient Civilizations: Mesopotamia and Egypt
   1. Identify principal characters and themes of the *Enuma Elish*.
   2. Identify principal themes from Egyptian mythology.
   3. Identify principal themes and motifs from *Gilgamesh*.
   4. Discuss the concept of the hero’s transformation as revealed in the Joseph Campbell tale, *The Hero’s Adventure*. Know also the position of the goddess, specifically that of Isis as revealed in the Campbell episode, *Love and the Goddess*. 
E. Europe
1. Identify principal characters, motifs, and themes of Northern European myths.
2. Identify principal characters, motifs, and themes from Celtic myths.
3. Identify principal characters, motifs, and themes from Beowulf.
4. Identify principal characters, motifs, and themes from Arthurian legend.
5. Compare depictions and purposes of monsters and/or evil forces in these myths.
6. Discuss the portrayals of women in the myths of the British Isles.

F. Asia
1. Identify principle characters, motifs, and themes in The Ramayana.
2. Identify principal characters, motifs, and themes in the myths of Japan.
3. Discuss the use of animals in the myths of Asia.
4. Compare the code of the hero in the myths of India and Japan.
5. Discuss the portrayal and roles of women in the myths of India and Japan.

G. Africa
1. Compare the creation and fertility myths of Africa with those of the previously studied cultures.
2. Identify the principal characters, motifs and themes of the Sunjata.
3. Discuss the use of magic in the myths of Africa and compare its use to that in other nations’ myths.

H. The Americas
1. Discuss the creation myths of the various cultures of Central and South America.
2. Identify the principal characters, motifs, and themes in the stories from Central and South America.
3. Compare the creation myths of various Native American tribes.
4. Discuss how the myths of these cultures answer basic questions and account for traditional beliefs.
5. Compare the hero in these stories with a hero from an Asian and a European country.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
A. Student Presentations
B. Instructor Lecture
C. Collaborative Projects
D. Reading Critical Articles

E. Library Research

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbooks
Library Skills

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

Library Collection
The Power of Myth DVDs

VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Student Presentations

B. Three Unit Exams

C. Student Led Discussion

D. Critical Analysis Paper

E. Final Exam

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100 = A
80-89  = B
70-79  = C
60-69  = D
Below 60 = F

IX. ADA COMPLIANCE

Students who have needs because of a learning disability or other kinds of disabilities should contact the Access/ABILITY Office at (636) 797-3000 extension 169 or 158 and discuss accommodations with the instructor.
X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

If a student plagiarizes writing or cheats on an assignment or test, he or she will fail that assignment and may fail the entire course. Dishonesty is a gross violation of the academic honesty policy as stated in the Jefferson College Student Handbook and indicates a failure to meet the standards of this course.