

VALENCIA COLLEGE

HUM 2310 – MYTHOLOGY

Semester – SPRING- 2017

Instructor - Ronald Greene

E-mail - rgreene@mail.valenciacollege.edu

Office hours are by appointment

Phone – 407-582-2351

Final Exam – Check ATLAS account

REQUIRED TEXT

The World of Myth – David Leeming, *World Mythology* – Roy Willis

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites: ENC 1101, ENC 1101H or IDH 1110 with a C or better grade.

Credits - 3

This course is an examination of Mythology in a comparative perspective that analyzes myths with a variety of methods, and considers the application of mythological ideas and symbols in the Humanities. This is a Gordon Rule course. Completion of this course with a C or better will partially satisfy the requirements of State Board of Education rule 6A-10.30.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

You will recognize the role of the myth in contemporary society. You will be able to identify and explain how myths have influenced the development of personal values and beliefs. From your reading, class discussions, interviews, and observations, you will gain insights into the ways in which mythology communicates key aspects of historical, philosophical, social, and political contexts as well as the human experience. You will demonstrate an acceptable college level competency in oral and written work including correct use of MLA research skills.

Valencia Competencies

1. To think critically and make reasoned choices by acquiring, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating knowledge
2. To read, listen, write, and speak effectively
3. To clarify personal strengths, values, and goals in relation to cultural values

CLAST Competencies

1. To acquire reading skills (literal and critical comprehension)
2. To improve writing (composing, transmitting ideas and information)
3. To learn listening skills (literal and critical comprehensive)
4. To speak clearly and correctly (composing and transmitting a message)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in class is very important. Lateness is rude and inconsiderate and may result in the loss of valuable information. It is also a disruption to the class and the instructor.

Absence from class is the loss of information that cannot be duplicated. The first **THREE** absences are without any explanation. On the **FOURTH** absence, you will be dropped from the course and receive a grade of **WF** or **F** ***or, at the teacher's discretion, remain in class but lose one letter grade on your final average for each absence after four. Students, who are not absent or late during the term, will be exempt from the Final Exam. Three lates are equal to 1 absence.***

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Late assignments will lose 10 points per day including weekends. Make-up tests will be given in only the most extraordinary of circumstances. **Group work is an important part of this class and will require time outside of class for meetings. If you are unable or unwilling to devote that time, you should consider another class. Group work is an essential part of this class. If you cannot make a commitment to spend time outside of class to work with your group, it is strongly suggested that you select another class. This class is a Gordon Rule course. This means that each student must write at a level deemed by the instructor as college quality. Every assignment is to be completed and submitted if you are to remain in class. If you opt not to participate in group work or group or individual papers, you will be derelict in your Gordon Rule requirement. This will result in you being dropped from the class with either a WF or an F.**

GRADES AND THE FORMAT FOR WRITTEN WORK

All assignments and tests will be essays and require paragraph writing. All papers **not** written in class must be typed and double-spaced. The MLA format is the acceptable form for **all** documentation in any paper. Papers will be evaluated using the following scale:

A+ = 100, A = 95, A- = 90, B+ = 88, B = 85, B- = 80, C+ = 78, C = 75,
C- = 70, D+ = 68, D = 65, F = 50

PRESENTATIONS

Each student will be assigned or will select a chapter from *Myths to Live By*. The groups will be made up of 2 to 4 individuals. Each member will read the chapter in its entirety. A presentation of the information found in the chapter will be prepared and presented to the rest of the class. This presentation will consist of a summary of the chapter. Audio and visual material to enhance and clarify the presentation will be used. Visuals and/or audios are necessary to enhance understanding of the presentations.

Outside sources are used to offer more in depth explanation along with specific audio and/or visual material to enhance and clarify your presentation. **A minimum of 3 visuals per person are required.** A grade will be given to the presentations based on their accuracy and insightfulness of information as well as the number of visuals and/or audios as prescribed in the directions. A **10 to 15** minute time limit is assigned to **each person**. Then, a presentation of the salient information will be prepared and presented to the rest of the class. **No written paper is to be submitted. A single grade will be given to the presentations** based on its accuracy and insightfulness of information. Individuals will proceed to incorporate this very specific information that is supported by audio/visual examples into his/her section of the chapter. The guidelines for these chapters are to include information from outside sources and **at least THREE** complete or excerpts of videos as found on You Tube or other video/internet sources. **Outside research is required** as well as audio examples of music, poetry, or excerpts from literature. Still pictures that are used **MUST** be explained in detail. Explanation of all material presented **MUST be paraphrased and stated with limited use of notes.** Reading from the screen or notes is **UNACCEPTABLE**. The more visuals used should be advantageous to your presentation and grade. The information offered will use direct quotations, comparisons and contrasts and be presented in your own words. More detailed directions and information

for the completion of this assignment will be forth coming in class. No written paper is required, and a single grade is given to each individual presentation.

An **A** presentation will include all information identified in this paragraph with emphasis on examples and details. A **B** presentation will contain all audios/visuals identified plus some examples and details with most information paraphrased. A **C** presentation contains fewer audio/visual examples and less paraphrasing than a **B** presentation. Any presentation that includes less information, audio/visuals, or paraphrasing than a **C** presentation will receive an **F**.

FILM REQUIREMENT

You will find a film that you believe represents a mythology found in society past or present and then present the film you have chosen to the instructor for approval. If approved, you will view your film. Next, you are to address the following question: What specific mythology does the film depict? Use specific examples to support your response. Then, offer your opinion of the film as to its depiction of the mythology. Your paper should be **no longer than 1 to 1 1/2 pages double spaced. You are to choose one (1) film and one film only including those that have more than one film in their series, or you may select a film of your choosing and acquire approval from the instructor.**

CREATIVE PROJECT

You will create a **Hero** from your imagination using any hero you can think of as a model and the information that you have acquired as to those traits and characteristics attributed to a **Hero** as well as any knowledge or research you choose to use. The purpose of this paper is to use the **Hero** information that we discovered in this class and offer insights into the specific hero whom you have created. Your hero's story is to be based on Joseph Campbell's definition of the **HERO** and the **HERO'S JOURNEY (The departure, initiation, return)**. You are to submit a paper of **two to three typed and double-spaced pages using correct grammar and syntax. No citations or Works Cited page is necessary. Your paper is to follow the structure of a creative story.**

EXAMINATIONS

All exams will be essay/composition in nature. You will be required to write your responses in paragraph form using your best writing skills. Exams will be based on class lectures, discussions, research, and assigned reading and require interpretation and extrapolation of material. These tests will be evaluated with the same weight as all other written or oral assignments or projects.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

PLAGIARISM is the acknowledged use of another writer's words or ideas. This includes intentional stealing as well as ignorant borrowing, including high tech acquisitions from any computer source. Receiving excessive assistance from someone else is also **PLAGIARISM.** However, it is encouraged and permissible to seek advice and assistance from members of the class, online writing labs, other instructors, or me.

DISCLAIMER

All information and assignments found in this syllabus are subject to oral or written change at the discretion of the instructor.

FINAL EXAM

You must take the final exam at the time it is scheduled by the college and the instructor. Failure to do so will result in a “F” for the course. (Your exam date and time is listed on ATLAS.)

ASSIGNMENTS BY WEEK

- WEEK 1 Introduction to the course and its objectives
An introduction to Leeming text and specific assignments
- WEEK 2 Read Part 1 - *COSMIC MYTHS* – p. 13, **The CREATION** – p. 15, ISRAEL - p. 20, IRAN (PERSIA) – p.25, GREECE – p. 27, DARWIN – p.38, MODERN PHYSICS: The Big Bang - p. 38, **THE FLOOD** – p.41, IRAN – p.54, GREECE-ROME – p.59, **THE APOCALYPSE** – p.69, ISRAEL – p. 70, ASIA-MINOR (CHRISTIAN) – p. 72, ARABIA (MUSLIM) – p. 74, MODERN PHYSICS – p.82
- WEEK 3 Test on previous week’s reading
Read Part 2 – *MYTHS of the GODS* – p.87, - **THE PANTHEONS** – p.89, EGYPT – p.90, GREECE – p.95, ROME – p.109, **THE GOD AS ARCHETYPE** – p.117, **THE SUPREME BEING** – 117, INDIA- p. 118, ISRAEL – p.120, MODERN SCIENCE – p.128, **THE GREAT MOTHER** – p.128, NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN (LAKOTA SIOUX) – p.132, MEXICO – p.134, MODERN SCIENCE – p. 134, **THE DYING GOD** – p.136, MESOPOTAMIA (SUMER) – p.137, EGYPT – p.139, GREECE and ROME – p.146, NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN (PENOBSCOT) – p.152, **THE TRICKSTER** – p.154, GREECE – p.155, INDIA – p.156, ICELAND – p.158, **GODS< GODDESSES<and LESSER SPIRITS** – p.167
- WEEK 4 Test on previous week’s reading
Read Part 3 – *HERO MYTHS* – p.203, GREECE – p.214, INDIA – p.220, ISRAEL – p.240, ARABIA – p.245, MESOPOTAMIA – p.256, ISRAEL – p.268,
Part 4 – *PLACE and OBJECT MYTHS* – p.275, **THE WORLD of AFTERLIFE** – p.277, EGYPT – p.278, NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN (HOPI) – p.281
THE MOUNTAIN – p.285, INDIA – p.285
THE CITY – p.286, GREECE – p. 290
THE TEMPLE – p.291, EUROPE – p.291
THE GENITALS – p.292, GREECE – 292
THE STONE – p.294, AUSTRALIA (ABORIGINAL) – p.295
THE TREE – p.295, INDIA – p.296

**THE GARDEN, THE GROVE, and the CAVE – p.299, ARABIA – p.299
THE LABYRINTH – p.302, GREECE – p.302**

- WEEK 5 Test on previous week's reading
Introduce Campbell text
Students will be arbitrarily assigned to groups for each Chapter in
Myths to Live By
Each individual in each group will be responsible for making an oral presentation of their assigned reading using visual and/or audio supplements to explain its salient points. There will be class time made available to work on this project
- WEEK 6 Begin group presentations
Film due
- WEEK 7 Continue group presentation work
- WEEK 8 Group presentations to be completed
- WEEK 9 Complete any group presentations remaining
Class discussion
- WEEK 10 Test on Campbell text
Explain Hero paper
- WEEK 11 View Campbell's comments on *The Hero's Journey*
- WEEK 12 Begin writing paper
Paper due
- WEEK 13 Introduce film *Peaceful Warrior*
Show film
- WEEK 14 Final Exam