

Valencia College
Humanities 2310: World Mythology
Summer 2019

Professor Dezso J. Bartha
Email: Dbartha @ valenciacollege.edu

Tuesday: 6:30 – 9:50pm
Building 1 - 371

Instructor Office hours: While the instructor does not have an office on campus, students are encouraged to meet before and after class to address any concerns regarding the course.

TEXTBOOK:

An Introduction to Comparative Mythology, Second Edition, by Jennifer Taylor, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS:

This course is dedicated to the analysis of stories and human belief systems from the dawn of prehistory to the motion pictures and novels of our present day. This course will examine many different cultures, from Egypt, Greece, and Scandinavia, to Japan, India, and Native American prehistory. We will explore many human belief systems, whether active in present day religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, or inactive, as in the myths and epics of ancient Greece. We will further explore commonalities in human religious beliefs, and deduce whether or not humans have more in common with each other than notions that separate us. This is of particular importance as we consider the new global and international culture that we are evolving toward.

Scholar Joseph Campbell and psychologist Carl Jung have a strong influence in present-day mythological analysis. We will address Jung and Campbell's notion of a collective human unconscious in mythological perspective while also addressing competing views of human diffusion and the spread or transmission of ideas through human history and cultural contact.

We will examine world mythology in comparative perspective, analyze myths with a variety of methods, and consider the application of mythological ideas and symbols within the field of the Humanities.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Your instructor is a professional Mythologist and has been teaching Humanities and Mythology for 13 years at Valencia College.

PREREQUISITE:

Satisfactory completion of ENC 1101

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is dedicated to **Critical Thinking**.

This course will enable a student to read, study, and compare myths of different world cultures and traditions in order to show their importance and influence on western civilization. It will also enable the student to increase vocabulary through myths. The course will help the student understand the application of mythological interpretation upon the current age.

This course seeks to reinforce the following Valencia Student Competencies:

- **Think** clearly, critically, and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating, and evaluating symbolic works and philosophical ideals.
- Reflect on your own and others' **values** from individual, cultural, and global perspectives.
- **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing, and speaking effectively.
- **Act** purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly, by implementing and displaying effective problem solving and decision making strategies.

REQUIREMENTS:

This course requires the student to demonstrate college-level writing. This course provides reinforcement in these College-Level Academic Skills: 1) Literal and critical reading comprehension; 2) essay skills (e.g., select a subject, formulate a thesis, provide supporting details, and revise for clarity and conformity); 3) Writing skills (e.g., sentence structure and punctuation).

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance and Participation. Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. **Tardiness in this class is unacceptable.** If you are tardy, you must enter class **quietly and respectfully.**

Excessive tardiness will have an impact on your final grade.

The class will be based on lectures and group discussions of the course material. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments and actively participate in class discussions. A **maximum of two absences** will be allowed.

Upon a third absence in this course the student will be withdrawn from class.

NOTE that Valencia College does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences!

Reading the textbooks is also essential to your success. You are responsible for the assigned readings whether we discuss it in class or not.

Assessment:

There will be semester quizzes and two tests, a mid-term, and a final exam. *Under extreme circumstances* there may be an opportunity for re-testing on the mid-term to reach a near-passing level of proficiency. If permitted to retest, you will receive no higher than a "C." Academic dishonesty in any class work will result in a loss of credit or a grade of "F" in this course.

GRADING SCALE:

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

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS:

To receive a W, you must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline of **July 5**. **It is the student's responsibility** to finalize all details for withdrawal from class.

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In addition to the required textbooks, students will be required to **read an outside class assignment** of an epic or **book within the field of mythology**. Some recommendations would be *The Iliad, the Odyssey, the Aeneid, le Morte d'Arthur, Tristan and Isolde, Parzival, Gilgamesh, the Volsung Saga, the Nibelungenlied*. Other books may be acceptable, as long as the student has consulted the instructor regarding his or her choice. Students will be expected to write a **minimum four-page** theme on their book and to do a brief class presentation. A list of acceptable books follows.

Students will also compose **three other 2.5 page essays** on topics listed below.

Student Papers are based on **Context and Interpretation**.

These papers are always interpretive. By this, the student is intended to give his or her own interpretation of the work in question, and not simply summarize the assignment. Students will be subject to grade penalties for not following this procedure. Students will be expected to give a very brief introduction to the class of each paper assignment on the due date of the assignment.

Late papers are dropped a **letter grade per class**. Hard copies must be submitted in addition to a Canvas submission.

Academic Dishonesty: All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
- reduction in the course grade;
- a grade of "F" in the course;

Special Note on Plagiarism: All plagiarized homework assignments, whether intentional or unintentional, will receive a "0". You are responsible for making sure that your work is not plagiarized. Oversight on your part will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.

Special Note on Cell Phones: It is very rude to use a cell phone in any way during class. Please be sure to have your cell phones turned off before class, and do not answer your phone, check messages, etc., during the class! This is especially important to remember during exams.

Food and Gum are not allowed in class. Drinks are allowed.

Please bring **Blue Books** for all exams. Students will not be allowed to take an exam without a blue book. These can be purchased at the book store.

Classroom Behavior:

Valencia College is dedicated to promoting honorable personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules articulated in the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03). The instructor reserves the right to refer students who engage in activities that are disruptive to the

learning environment to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. The following list, though not exhaustive, includes things which are disruptive to the learning environment:

Use of any electronic devices including but not restricted to: Cell phones, iPods, and laptop computers (documentation from OSD will be taken into consideration).

Preparing homework for other courses during class.

Engaging in private conversations with classmates while class is in session.

Excessive tardiness

Leaving and re-entering the classroom while the class is in session.

In addition, Valencia College strives to provide a drug-free learning environment for all those involved in the academic experience. Our policy is as follows:

Policy:

In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Valencia College will take such steps as are necessary in order to adopt and implement a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by Valencia College students or employees on college premises or as part of any college activity.

Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Please contact 407-582-2229 for more information.

Disclaimer: This outline may be altered, at the instructor's discretion, during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for informing themselves of changes announced in class.

Guidelines to Class Participation:

Class participation, which includes attendance and tardiness, will impact your final grade, especially when the grade is near borderline.

All students are required to participate and offer objective feedback on works presented by the text or through class lectures or discussion.

Students are expected to act in a respectful and courteous manner toward one another in the spirit of professional academic conduct.

Students have the right to an academically friendly environment and participate freely according to their personal interpretations and conclusions.

Students have the right to a personal set of aesthetics or opinions that may differ from other students or the instructor.

Students are expected to behave in a mature manner and show respect for alternate points of view held by their classmates.

Under no circumstances is any student to show disrespect to a peer's opinion or conclusion.

Any disrespect, disruptive, or argumentative behavior toward a peer's opinion will not be tolerated.

No chewing gum or eating in class!

Chatting in class is disrespectful to your teacher and your classmates. Please do not converse with your neighbor while class is in session.

Please do not text in class, and utilize texting technology only for emergency or family situations.

If, for any reason, you must leave class, you MUST do so quietly and respectfully.

Computers may be used for note-taking purposes only. Any other use and all computers will be banned for all students for the semester.

Instructor will examine blue book testing materials at random during exams.

Students may never use the restroom or leave the class for any reason during a testing situation.

Suggested Books for Mythology Final Paper

Homer, *The Iliad*

Homer, *The Odyssey*

Virgil, *the Aeneid*

Beowulf

Gilgamesh

The Song of Roland

Dante, *the Inferno, Purgatory, or Paradise*

Tolkien, *the Silmarillion*

Edith Hamilton, *Mythology*
Kevin Crossley Holland, *The Norse Myths*
The Prose Edda
Saga of the Volsungs
The Nibelungenlied
Snorri Sturluson, *The Poetic Edda*
Gottfried von Strassbourg, *Tristan and Isolde*
Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*
Richard Wagner, *The Ring of the Nibelung*
Goethe, *Faust*
Joseph Campbell, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*
Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth*
Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur*
White, *The Once and Future King*
Frank Herbert, *Dune*
The Egyptian Book of the Dead

Books outside of this list are allowed, but student must consult with professor first.

Class Schedule, Summer 2019

(Note: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor).

Week 1, May 7

Introduction to Class

Joseph Campbell film: The Message of the Myth

Week 2, May 14

Introduction to **Mythic Theory**

First Essay Assignment:

A story that has meaning for you

Week 3, May 21

Creation Myths

Week 4, May 28

Myths of the Flood

The Afterlife and Apocalypse

Week 5, June 4

Pantheons:

Students must have chosen their book and consulted with the instructor for their final paper.

Second Essay: Creation Myth

Week 6, June 11

MIDTERM EXAM THIS WEEK

Week 7, June 18

The Monomyth and the Hero Cycle

Week 8, June 25

The God/ Goddess as Archetype:

Introduction to archetypal patterns in Jungian psychology.

Lesser Gods and Goddesses

Third Essay: The Hero

Week 9, July 2

Comparative Mythology: Celtic/Arthurian/Medieval

July 5: Withdrawal Deadline

Week 10, July 9

Trends in Modern Mythological Theory: Joseph Campbell, Jung's Collective Unconscious, and Human Diffusion: Competing Schools of Mythological Thought

Week 11, July 16

Final Class Papers and Presentations

No final papers accepted beyond this date.

Week 12, July 23

FINAL EXAM

Classes End: July 30, 2019