

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**HUM 2310 – MYTHOLOGY**

**SPRING SEMESTER 2016**

**PROFESSOR J. SANDS**

**Class:** M 6:00pm – 8:45pm **Location:** WC 3 – 130

**No. Credit Hours:** 3.0

**CRN:** 29437

**Email:** jsands2@valenciacollege.edu

**Required Text:** The following text is required and must be purchased by each student for successful completion of the course:

* *Introduction to Mythology* by Eva Thury and Margaret Devinney, Third Edition (ISBN 978-0199859238)

**Course Description:** Examines world mythology in comparative perspective, analyzes myths with a variety of methods, and considers the application of mythological ideas and symbols in the humanities. Gordon Rule course which requires multiple college level writing assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

**Prerequisite:** Freshman Composition ENC 1101 or 1101H, IDH 1110

# **Important Dates:**

 January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No Class

 February 12: Learning Day – No Class

March 7-13: Spring Break – No Classes

April 1: Withdraw Deadline

 April 24: Last Day of Classes

 April 25-May 1: Final Exams

May 3: Grades Viewable in Atlas

# **Attendance**

It is important to attend every class. **Final Exam and assignments MUST be turned in ON TIME, unless an *earlier* make-up date is requested and approved prior to the scheduled due date.**

**Student Responsibility after Absence**

Always check the course schedule when you miss class so that you are prepared when you return. You will be expected to submit any assignments on Blackboard on the given due date and take the scheduled final exam with the rest of the class, even if you are not prepared for it. Be sure to check your Atlas email and Blackboard for any announcements the instructor may have sent out regarding changes to the course schedule. No exceptions will be made for you because you were absent and did not receive the information.

**Make-up Policies**

There will not be any late work or make-up work allowed. Assignments will be provided with enough time to complete the work required. DO NOT wait until the last minute to complete your work! If you encounter a technical issue because you waited to submit your work, it will not be accepted! Any extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but it is recommended that you contact me as soon as possible and have documentation to support your claim.

**Withdrawal Deadline and Policy**

A student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of April 1 will receive a grade of “W.” A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member's class up to the beginning of the final exam period, for violation of the faculty member's attendance policy, as published in the faculty member's syllabus. A student is not permitted to withdraw from this class after the withdrawal deadline; if you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F or I. An “I” grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an “I”, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will get an A, B, C, D or F. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in you getting a grade of “F” in the course. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

Please note that withdrawing from a course may affect your Financial Aid and it is advised that you first consult an advisor or counselor prior to withdrawing from a course. Furthermore, students with some scholarships who withdraw or are withdrawn from a class must pay the college for the cost of the class. Other scholarship sponsors may also require repayment. In order to academically maintain financial aid, students must meet all of the following requirements:

* Complete 67% of all classes attempted, and
* Maintain a Valencia GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Complete degree within the 150% timeframe

Detailed information about maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) can be found at: <http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm>

**Office of Students with Disabilities**

Students who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first week of class.  The Office for Students with Disabilities (West-SSB 102) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

The goal at the OSD is to open doors, remove barriers and assist you in any way they can. The key to success is matching your needs to the services provided. Please contact this office to discuss your individual needs.

The link to Valencia’s OSD website: <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/osd>

**Faculty / Student Communication**

Email is the preferred method of contact. If you do not receive an email response within 48 business hours, most likely I have not received your email and strongly suggest that you resend your email.

Should you encounter technical issues, I recommend that you document these occurrences by copying emails, saving screen shots, or any other method to demonstrate the incident.

Please be sure to check your Valencia College email on a regular basis, every other day at a minimum. Important information will be sent this way and not checking your email regularly could result in missing vital information required for your success.

Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to talk to your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.

**Expected Student Conduct**

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia’s rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

**Classroom Behavior**

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and classroom discussion. Often, you will be presented with points of view that may conflict with your own. Academic debate is highly encouraged, but rude and offensive behavior toward any member of the classroom will not be tolerated.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is defined as taking (ideas, writing, etc.) from another and pass them off as one's own. It is morally and academically unacceptable. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that may result in failure of a particular assignment, failure of a particular class, and/or exclusion from the college. Any assignment showing signs of plagiarism will receive a zero; if a second assignment shows signs of plagiarism, a final grade of “F” will be given to the student. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, consult the professor.

**Internet Research**

Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable.  Many sites contain research and information of high quality.  However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet.

There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the Internet for their research needs when working on activities.

Please note: Wikipedia is NEVER acceptable to reference in your research or works cited! You may use it as a starting off point, but please be sure to check where the information comes from by doing additional research.

**Weekly Reading Assignments**

You are expected to have completed all reading assignments BEFORE the start of class. Demonstrating you have done so during classroom discussions as well as your response post will make up 25% of your final grade. The final exam will also center on these readings**.**

# **Basis of Evaluation & Grading Scale**

# Students will be evaluated on the basis of a percentage system. Each response/discussion post, paper/presentation, and the final exam will be worth a certain percentage of your final grade. Please consult the professor with any questions regarding your current academic standing. Grade distribution will be as follows:

**Grading Scale**

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

Weekly Reading Online Response (10) - 25%

Art of Myth/Presentation - 25%

Myth & Culture/Presentation - 25%

Contemporary Myth Discussion - 10%

Final Exam - 15%

**Papers & Discussion/Response Posts**

**Weekly Response Posts**

Each week, as noted on your Weekly Class Schedule, you will be required to make a response post regarding the week’s reading. These posts must be at least 200 words and consist of college-level writing. The post should include your understanding of the material, any questions you had while reading, and/or new information learned. Please note that if your post strays from the required reading, you may incur a deduction in points.

**Art of Mythology Paper**

You will select a work of art that is a representation of a myth. For this paper, you will include a brief description of the piece of art, some information about the artist, and why they may have adjusted the artwork for their audience. This paper must be at least 1500 words, double spaced, 12-pt font, and in Times New Roman. Furthermore, you will need to cite your sources using MLA formatting.

**Mythology & Culture Paper**

For this paper, you will select a myth that will not be covered in class, dissect the true meaning of the myth, provide information about the culture and the importance of its time, as well as why it still adds value to society today. Please note that you are required to select a myth that is not in your textbook and must be cleared with the professor. This paper must be at least 1500 words, double spaced, 12-pt font, and in Times New Roman. Furthermore, you will need to cite your sources using MLA formatting.

**Contemporary Culture & Mythology Discussion**

For this discussion post, you will write about the connection between mythology and a piece from contemporary culture, such as a film, a piece of literature, music, etc. Share the differences and similarities that you noticed when comparing the two. It may be best to stick with one ancient myth and one contemporary piece. Your initial discussion post must be at least 850 words and you must respond to at least one other student with at least 150 words, adding to the conversation.

**Weekly Class Schedule:**

Monday, January 11: Introduction

* *Read Chapters 1 & 2; complete response post. Read Chapters 15 & 22; complete response post. \*Please note that you have two response posts due by January 25!*

Monday, January 18: NO CLASS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Monday, January 25: Intro to Studying Mythology / Theoretical Approaches to Myth

* *Read Chapters 3 & 4; complete response post.*
* *Submit image and title of artwork for Art of Mythology Paper.*

Monday, February 1: Myths of Creation

* *Read Chapters 7 & 10; complete response post.*

Monday, February 8: Myths of Creation

* *Read Chapters 8 & 9; complete response post.*

Monday, February 15: Myths of Creation

* *Read Chapters 12 & 14; complete response post.*

Monday, February 22: Myths of Destruction

* *Complete Art of Mythology Paper.*

Monday, February 29: ART OF MYTHOLOGY PAPER DUE! (Post online by 6pm EST) / PRESENTATIONS

* *Read Chapter 16; complete response post.*
* *Submit title and citation for myth selected for the Mythology & Culture Paper.*
* *Submit information on contemporary piece for Contemporary Culture & Mythology Discussion.*

Monday, March 7: NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK WEEK

Monday, March 14: Heroes and Tricksters

* *Read Chapter 20; complete response post.*

Monday, March 21: Heroes and Tricksters

* *Read Chapter 21; complete response post.*

Monday, March 28: Heroes and Tricksters

* *Read Chapters 28 & 29; complete response post.*

Monday, April 4: Ritual and Myth

* *Complete Mythology and Culture Paper.*

Monday, April 11: MYTHOLOGY & CULTURE PAPER DUE! (Post online by 6pm EST) / PRESENTATIONS

* *Complete Contemporary Culture & Mythology Discussion. \*Please note that the initial post is due by Sunday, April 17 and the response post is due by 6pm (EST), Monday, April 18!*

Monday, April 18: CONTEMPORARY CULTURE & MYTHOLOGY DISCUSSION

* *Study for Final Exam!*

Monday, April 25: FINAL EXAM

***\*\* This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor at any time.***