

MYTHOLOGY

HUM 2310 | Spring 2018 | CRN 14800
Mondays 6:30pm-9:15pm | Bldg 4, Room 147
Professor Mary Robinson |
mrobinson29@valenciacollege.edu

Contact the professor through Valencia email. I only contact students through Valencia email, so check it frequently. Meeting hours as needed by request.



TEXTBOOK: *The World of Myth (An Anthology)* Second Edition (David A. Leeming)
Additional required and suggested material and resources in Blackboard

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: THIS COURSE IS CANVAS ENHANCED. Internet access is available on campus. **If for any reason you cannot regularly access the Internet for your course work, you will encounter problems fulfilling class requirements.**

Please review the checklist for this course:

- Microsoft Office (which includes Microsoft Word for writing essays)—download from Valencia's Atlas webpage.
- Verify that your computer meets system and browser requirements:
<http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/getting-started-online/system-requirements.cfm>
- Update your computer as needed so that you may complete coursework:
<http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/getting-started-online/system-requirements.cfm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MYTHOLOGY Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in ENC 1101 or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110
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. Students must demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

Valencia College has defined four interrelated competencies that help prepare students to succeed in the world community. These core competencies are **Think, Value, Communicate, and Act**. More specifically at this link
<http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/aboutvalenciacollege/studentcorecompetencies/>

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this course, students will have mastered the following through a combination of in class or group discussion, formal or informal written assignments, or in class presentations:

- Trace the similar archetypes in mythologies from around the world, specifically the Supreme Being, Great Mother, Dying/Rising God, Trickster, and Hero. Identify, describe, and illustrate with appropriate examples, how the archetypes are both universal and particular. Explain the possible reasons for the similarities.
- Understand mythologies within their cultural and historical context, while able to connect ancient mythologies to the modern world, including their personal life where relevant.
- Identify and interpret a mythology in the fine arts, philosophy, or religion through a variety of critical and analytic methods to the work. Recognize and draw conclusions between the widely held views of scholars and experts and student's personal views.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students who plagiarize material or otherwise cheat will receive a "0" for the assignment and may be withdrawn from the course, as well as possible academic disciplinary action.

INCLUSIVITY and BEHAVIOR

This course involves discussions of potentially sensitive or controversial topics. Part of the learning process in this course is respectful engagement of ideas with others. We each have different experiences that influence our perspectives of the world. You may feel uncomfortable or disagree with certain ideas or opinions expressed by others or with certain topics in the class. You may also find you share perspectives or experiences with others. The classroom should be a lively, interactive, and comfortable place to share, test ideas, and debate issues. As a student you should expect the instructor prepared for the course and to treat each student with respect and compassion. In turn, you are expected to treat your instructor and all other participants in the course with courtesy and respect. Students will need to contribute in intelligent, positive, and constructive manners within the course. Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free from harassing statements. You are encouraged to respectfully disagree with other students, but such disagreements need to be based upon facts and research (rather than prejudices and personalities). The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted. Disruptive, abusive, or harassing behaviors may result in disciplinary actions.

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

VALENCIA POLICY CONCERNING 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 disruptive to the learning environment:

- All cell phones, smartphones, ipods, laptop computers (unless you have paperwork from the OSD) and other technological gadgets must be turned OFF prior to entering the classroom and remain off and put away while class is in session. **Anyone seen texting during class has clearly violated this policy, and after the second warning will be asked to leave class and incur an unexcused absence.**
- Leaving and re-entering the classroom while class is in session will not be tolerated. **If a student leaves the classroom while class is in session, s/he should take their possessions with them and not return and will receive an unexcused absence for that class.** This policy helps to preserve the learning environment of the classroom.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

In order to withdraw from this course with a W, a student must complete the withdrawal process on or before **Friday, November 9, 2018**, via ATLAS, but do it early in the event you have any computer-related challenges and need to come in person before the office closes. You will not be permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal date. **Withdrawal from the course remains the sole responsibility of the student.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities 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 two weeks of class. The Office of Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Please note it is the responsibility of the student to discuss the need for any accommodation, not the instructor's.



ESSAYS AND WRITING

This course requires each student to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple types of assignments. Completion of the course with a final grade of “C” or better will partially satisfy the requirements of State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.30. This course provides reinforcement in these College-Level Academic Skills: 1) Literal and critical reading comprehension; 2) essay skills (for example, select a subject, formulate a thesis, provide supporting details, and revise for clarity and conformity; 3) writing skills (i.e., sentence structure and punctuation).

To achieve this goal, students will write two essays, eight short essays, and two focused points of interest or detailed questions drawn from the reading assignments. Students will receive separate guidelines for the writings. To help foster your writing skills, I will provide a writing guide posted in Canvas. **In addition, you may earn 5 points extra credit to the final paper**

grade for use of the writing center tutors for the non-myth essay. Attach the proof sheet or email response from the writing center at the end of your paper or email it to me.

GRADING SCALE	GRADE COMPOSITION	
A = 90-100	Attendance & Participation	= 60 points (15%)
B = 80-89	Short Essays + POIs/QUEs	= 100 points (15%)
C = 70-79	Group Presentation + Essay	= 200 points (20%)
D = 60-69	Non-Myth Folklore Essay	= 100 points (20%)
F = 59 and below	Hero(ine) Presentation	= 100 points (20%)
	Final Exam	= 100 points (10%)
	*Extra credit may be offered occasionally.	

I DO NOT allow for make-up work. A class absence does not excuse a writing or other assignment if due. Submit assignments on their due date or an earlier approved date.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (15%)

ATTENDANCE (30 points)

Attendance during the first week of class is mandatory. Anyone who misses the first class meeting will be withdrawn as “No Show”—no exceptions.

During the semester, regular attendance is necessary for successful completion of this course since meetings take place only once a week. Students are allowed the equivalent of **three (3) total absences (NOTE: The instructor does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences)** during the semester. Upon the third absence, the student will be notified that a further absence will result in their withdrawal from the course. Upon the fourth absence, the student will automatically be withdrawn from the course by the instructor. A student will be marked absent if: they do not answer when their name is called; if they miss more than 15 minutes of class by arriving late or leaving early. It is the attendance records of the instructor, not the recollections of the student, which will be consulted for proof of attendance/absences.

For severe medical conditions that result in excessive absences, consult the Dean of Students concerning Valencia’s medical withdrawal policy.

International students, and students receiving financial aid, should be aware of how a “W” will affect their status.

<http://international.valenciacollege.edu/current-students/maintaining-visa-status/>

http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm

If you must miss a class (equivalent to two regular class meetings), email the instructor **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE prior to the absence and turn in any work due**. Each class meeting equals 2 attendance points for a total possible of 30 points. Attendance will be added to and calculated with Participation (an additional 30 total possible points). *Attendance means on time arrival to class for the entire class period, prepared to engage your peers in respectful discussion.* Writing

assignments, exams, and essay papers **MUST** be turned in **ON TIME**, unless an *earlier* date is requested and approved prior to the scheduled due date.

PARTICIPATION (30 points)

Attendance, outlined above, will combine with participation toward the final grade. I believe in discussion based class time to engage various opinions, ideas, and perspectives to enrich the course material. Students may also earn participation through thoughtfully and respectfully crafted responses emailed to the instructor **within 24 hours of the last class meeting to count toward participation and relate back to the class discussion it references**. The email response in lieu of in-class participation remains voluntary and absence of such will result from actual class participation for this portion of the grade. Participation points equal 30 total points (2 per class meeting).

Each student will begin the course with full attendance and participation points, for a total of 60 points or 100%. For each un-excused absence, late attendance, early departure, missing or incomplete writing assignment, and lack of participation during a class meeting, points will be deducted from the total.

ASSIGNMENTS

READINGS: Students should complete all reading assignments **BEFORE** the start of class. Demonstrating you have done so during class discussions is a part of your Attendance & Participation grade. *Students are responsible for the content in the reading material whether discussed in class or not.*

8 SHORT ESSAYS + 2 POIs/QUEs (15%) (100 points total | 10 points each)

DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE READINGS.

In addition to the assigned readings and movie, **submit a 1-page (minimum of full text) cultural observation essay connected to that week's reading** that references the material such as: commercials, print ads, movies, video games, fashion brands and styles, television shows, games, beauty and other products, etc. If from a media source, attach the source link; if a product seen when out and about, take a photo and include at the end of the essay. **The essay should focus on a connection(s) between aspects of a specific myth from the assigned reading and how it relates to the modern period, the significance of doing so, and its accuracy and effectiveness. The 1-page essay assignment on the reading is due at the beginning of class in hard copy format. I will return the essay the following class meeting with constructive feedback.** Date each weekly assignment and reference the reading assignment; for example: January 10, 2015 Chapter 1. **The writing assignment for a reading must still be turned in regardless of class absence by email on or before the due date.**

Submit a **detailed** POI (point of interest) or QUE (question) for each **reading due Weeks 3 and 4**, so a total of six (6). Identify each reading title and the POI or QUE. Turn in hard copy in class.

For the cultural observation on the movie, students will watch a movie of their choice on their own with a focus on material from the course then write an essay as to how the movie connects to the material from the course. Email this essay on or before the due date.

GROUP PRESENTATION + ESSAY (20%)

Students will receive group assignments and chapters for presentations during the first class meeting. **EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP MUST PRESENT.**

**PRESENTATION (100 points)**

Students will work together in designated groups to present an assigned chapter of the text to the rest of the class that includes the main points, summaries and teachings of the myths, and include interpretations and influences of the topic(s) reflected in film, art, literature, pop culture, etc. Presentations should creatively inform and engage the class and at the end **provide three (3) discussion questions** to begin class discussion of the chapter. Create in PowerPoint format, image heavy, minimal text per slide. Have Works Cited sources on the last slide. **Each group member will post the presentation materials/format in Canvas by 5pm the day before their in class presentation.**

ESSAY (100 points)

Each group member will individually (not collectively) also write a **minimum 3 full page** (but not more than 5) essay on their assigned chapter. Submit the essay in hard copy format at the beginning of the class presentation date. Use the writing guidelines for formatting. **Group members who present a chapter will not write a cultural observation essay for that chapter.**

Group presentations will be graded as follows: in-class presentation grade same for all group members **plus** individual 3-page essay grade.

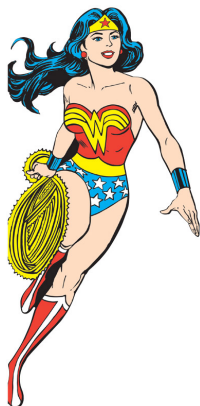
NON-MYTH FOLKLORE ESSAY (20%) (100 points)

Write an essay of **at least 3 full pages** but not more than 5, not including images, in standard format. The essay will focus on a specific folklore of interest to the student. Some examples include vampires, witches, werewolves, dragons, zombies, a fairy tale, etc. Provide the *cultural* and *historic context* for the existence or creation of the chosen topic, its origin, history, and how it has changed over time of the chosen topic, discuss how it has and still appears in literature, film, pop culture, language, etc.



Use a minimum of three (3) sources besides the

textbook. Insure the use of reliable Internet sources; **NO** Wikipedia allowed. **Submit the essay through Canvas under the Assignment tab by 5:00pm on 11/11/18.** Also bring a printed out hard copy to the next class meeting.



HERO(INE) PRESENTATION (20%) (100 points)

Mythology provides archetypes reflected in society, with the hero or heroine as one of the most important societal archetypes that provide meaning for individual existence. Choose a specific hero or heroine from any cultural myth to present and discuss:

The historical and cultural context for the creation of the hero(ine) by their real life creator/author, origin story and historical overview of the hero(ine) [birth, parents, attributes, animal(s), symbols, powers, etc.].

Some questions to consider for the chosen hero(ine):

- Is the hero(ine) a willing or reluctant hero?
- What heroic deeds/actions/characteristics is the hero(ine) known for?
- What is the hero(ine)'s specific hero's journey?
- How does the hero(ine) fit into the larger scope of the universe s/he comes from?
- Whom does the hero(ine) parallel or resemble from other myths and specifically how?
- What modern depictions of the hero(ine) exist? [Film, TV show, play, art, etc.]
- What are modern versions of the hero(ine) directly influenced by him/her?
- Finally and most importantly, relate the hero(ine) to yourself and your specific journey.

Use a minimum of three (3) sources. Insure the use of reliable Internet sources; **NO** Wikipedia allowed. Presentations should reflect creativity and engage the viewer. **Create Presentations in PowerPoint format.** The last slide should have the Works Cited. **Submit the presentation in Canvas under the assignment.** All presentations are due in Canvas by **5:00pm on 11/25/18.**

*****CLASSROOM PROTOCOL DURING ANY PRESENTATION*****

Students who arrive to class late during a presentation will remain outside of the classroom until the current presentation ends. Students in the classroom during a presentation will not leave the classroom. Both behaviors are disruptive and rude.

FINAL EXAM (10%)

This course will have only one exam, the cumulative final at the end of the term. The final exam will draw from the readings and class discussions and the format may include fill in the blank, identification, and essay questions. **NO** notes, books, computers, cellphones, smart devices, smart watches, or any other study aids allowed during the exam. A blue book and non-erasable ink pen are required to take the exam. Students are not permitted to leave the class and return during the exam for any reason; leaving during the exam indicates completion. Failure to take the exam on the scheduled date without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a "0" grade.

*****TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLASS SEMESTER*****

- Come to class prepared and on time
- Pay attention in class
- Respectfully engage in class discussions
- Keep an open mind
- Find a partner to obtain/ share notes if absent
- Proofread and edit essays more than once, first drafts do not make good papers
- Take notes while reading and in class
- If the professor writes something on the board, write it down
- Ask for clarifications if unsure of an assignment well **BEFORE** the due date
- Communicate with the professor for assistance or concerns about assignments
- Be aware of your surroundings and how myths still live on in the world around us
- Enjoy the class

OUTLINE OF CLASSES



Week 1 | 08/27/18 Class introductions, Review syllabus, group and chapter assignments

Week 2 | 09/03/18 **NO CLASS MEETING | LABOR DAY**

Week 3 | 09/10/18 Why Myths? Foundations and Context to Get Started
Introduction to Comparative Mythology (pages 1-6) **AND**
“Existence and Emergence of Folklore in Everyday Life,” **AND** “The
Concept of the Collective Unconscious” (Links in Canvas) **(3 Detailed POIs
or QUES due, one for each reading)**

Week 4 | 09/17/18 Symbols in Myth and Myth in Art | Folktales, Legends, Fairy Tales, Fables
“The Social Function of Symbols” **AND** “Learning About Ourselves
Through Fairy Tales,” **AND** “From Folktales to Fiction: Orphan Characters
in Children’s Literature” (Links in Canvas) **(3 Detailed POIs or QUES due,
one for each reading)**

- Week 5 | 09/24/18** The Creation (pages 15-39) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 1 Presentation
- Week 6 | 10/01/18** The God as Archetype (pages 117-163) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 2 Presentation
- Week 7 | 10/08/18** The Flood (pages 41-66) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 3 Presentation
- Week 8 | 10/15/18** The Apocalypse (pages 69-83) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 4 Presentation
- Week 9 | 10/22/18** Hero Myths (pages 203-272) **AND** “Superheroes R Us”
(**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 5 Presentation
- Week 10 | 10/29/18** The Pantheons (pages 89-115) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Group 6 Presentation
- Week 11 | 11/05/18** Gods, Goddesses, and Lesser Spirits (pages 167-200) (**Cultural Observation Essay due**) **AND** Place and Object (pages 275-304)
(**Cultural Observation Essay due**)
Groups 7 + 8 Presentations
- Week 12 | 11/12/18** Non-Myth Folklore Essay due 5pm 11/11/18 | Movie TBD
- Week 13 | 11/19/18** **NO CLASS MEETING | Movie** Cultural Observation Essay due by email
- Week 14 | 11/26/18** **Hero(ine) Presentations Due in Canvas by 5pm 11/25/18** | Group 1 Presentations | Review for Final
- Week 15 | 12/03/18** **Hero(ine) Presentations** Group 2 | Review for Final
- Week 16 | 12/10/18** Final Exam | **6:30pm-8:30pm**

*This syllabus may be changed or updated at the discretion of the professor with notice to students.