

VALENCIA COLLEGE

HUM 2310 – MYTHOLOGY

Semester –SUMMER- 2016

E-mail - rgreene@atlas.valenciacollege.edu

appointment

Phone – 407-582-2351

Instructor - Ronald Greene

Office hours are by

Final Exam – Check ATLAS

REQUIRED TEXTS

An Introduction to Comparative Mythology – Jennifer Taylor

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 College 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 **TWO** absences are without any explanation. On the **THIRD** absence, you will be dropped from the course and receive a grade of **W** or **F** *or, at the teacher's discretion, remain in class but lose one letter grade on your final average for each absence after three.*

Students who are not absent or late during the term will be exempt from the Final Exam. A late is when you enter the classroom and I have begun taking role. An absence is recorded when you are not present, regardless of the reason.

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.*

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. You should keep an accurate record of **all** of your grades. Written work and tests are based on 100 points.

Outside extra credit work receives a 95 grade and should be included in your grade average calculations. Add up all grades and divide by the total number of grades. All work and tests 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 myth from the categories identified in the text but from a different culture than those used in the chapters. Each individual student will select a myth that is not duplicated by any other student. This presentation will consist of a detailed summary of the chosen myth that is paraphrased. Audio and visual material to enhance and clarify the presentation will also be required to enhance understanding of the presentation.

Outside sources are to be used to offer more in depth explanation along with specific audio and/or visual material to enhance and clarify your presentation. A grade will be given to the presentations based on their accuracy and insightfulness of information. A 5 to 10 minute time limit is assigned to each individual. 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 grade will be given to the presentations based on their accuracy and insightfulness of information. Outside sources are used to offer more in depth explanation along with specific audio and/or visual material to enhance and clarify of your presentation.

Each member of the group is to select a specific piece of information or philosophy that is contained in his/her part of your chapter. No duplication of topics is acceptable in any group. 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 will be advantageous to your presentation and grade. The information offered will use direct quotations, comparisons and contrasts and be presented in your own words.

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 are to find a film that that you believe represents a mythology found in society past or present. After viewing your film, you are to address the following

question: What specific mythology does the film depict? Use specific examples to support your response. 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.** **(Be sure to receive approval of your choice from me.)**

CREATIVE PROJECT

You will create a **Hero** from your imagination using 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's Journey.** 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 "WF" 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 Taylor text and specific assignments
Read chapters 1-i, 2-i,iv,ix,x, 3-I,ii,iii,viii,
Test
Read chapters 4-ii,v,vi,viii, 5-ii,v,ix,x, 6-i,iv,vi,ix,
Test
- WEEK 2 Read chapters 7-I,v,vi,vii, 8-I,ii,iv,vi
Test
- WEEK 3 Introduce Cosmic Myths and their connection to our world and
explanations of our beginnings
Students will be arbitrarily assigned to groups and a 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
Work on group presentations of chapters
Discussion of the mythology in the text
- WEEK 4 Begin individual presentations of chapters
Complete presentations
Film paper due
- WEEK 5 Explanation of hero papers– class time to begin
Hero papers
Film *Journey of Man*
- WEEK 6 Test on *Myths to Live by*
Film *Peaceful Warrior*
- WEEK 7 Similarities to Campbell's views as expressed in *Myths to Live by* and
film
Review of all information covered in class for Final Exam