

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ENGL 21 - Mythology

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is an introductory survey of selected mythologies, including Greek, Hindu, Chinese, Biblical, Native American/Traditional, Mayan/Toltec/Aztec, European, African, and others. Emphasis is on the cultural importance of the stories and the religious importance of the rituals surrounding the myths. The course will include readings from mythology and scholarly works on mythology. The goal of this course is to produce an understanding of the function and force of mythology. Graded only.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze themes within course texts and compare them to the ways these themes are treated in other course texts.
- B. Synthesize analyses of specific details in particular works of literature in support of a clear, overall point or thesis.
- C. Identify, employ and evaluate different frameworks for analyzing and interpreting literature. These frameworks may include political, socioeconomic, geographical, ethnic, cultural, ecological, psychoanalytical, historical, gender, sexuality, and genre development.
- D. Compare and contrast several mythological systems.
- E. Analyze the classic myths of western culture and other myths from around the world.
- F. Differentiate between archetypes and motifs, and assess the role of those archetypes or motifs in several texts.
- G. Evaluate the relevance of mythology in the artwork, belief systems, and social norms of contemporary cultures, as well as the role(s) myths may play in the student's own life.
- H. Analyze how mythology influences literature, film, music, and art.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Myth and the Modern World	5.00
2. The Indigenous Cosmos – The Sacred and Profane	10.00
3. Babylonia and The Garden Of Eden	5.00
4. The Egyptian and Greek Connection	10.00
5. Archetypes and Heroes	9.00
6. The Gift of the Goddess	4.00
7. Contemporary Mythology and the Eternal Return	8.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Guest Speakers
- C. Class Activities
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Discussion
- F. Multimedia Presentations
- G. Critical Reading

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Projects
- B. Class participation
- C. Mid-term and final examinations
- D. Essays and research papers
- E. Persuasive Research Paper (a minimum of 4000 words will be written for this Course)
- F. Presentations

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read the assigned selection on Joseph Campbell's monomyth and evaluate its relationship to a contemporary narrative. Be prepared to present your evaluation of the narrative's use or adaption of the various stages described in the monomyth during class discussion.
 - 2. Read the assigned chapter(s) on archetypes and motifs. Pick a single archetype or motif and compare and contrast the role that archetype/motif plays in two or more of the cultures we're studying, using specific myths or tales to support your comparison. Share your findings with the class in a ten-minute presentation.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. In a five to seven page paper, formulate an interpretation of the role that an archetype such as the femme fatale, the trickster, or the dying god, plays in contemporary culture. To support your interpretation, you may draw from literature, film, and art, as well as sports, politics, and psychology.
 - 2. In a 1-2 page response, analyze the role of the guide and the use of repetition in The Story of Jumping Mouse.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. In a five to seven page paper, analyze an epic narrative and assess the ways in which that narrative influenced a given culture, reflects a particular historical era, or captures a particular worldview.
 - 2. Watch Michael Wood's In Search of Myths & Heroes: King Arthur, and be prepared to use the ideas presented to discuss and evaluate the potential historical underpinnings of the Arthurian Legend in class.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Thury, E.M. & Devinney, M.K.. Introduction to World Mythology. Third Edition. Oxford University Press, 2013.
- B. Campbell, Joseph. The Hero With a Thousand Faces. Bollingen, 2008.

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