



## **ENGLT 345: Mythologies of the World – FALL 2011**

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*Office Hours:* Tuesdays 8:00-8:50 a.m.; Thursdays 12:00-12:50 p.m.

**Course Description:** This course offers a thematic approach to myth and legend from a variety of cultures, stressing the following types of stories: beginnings of the world, creation of living creatures, explanation of natural phenomena, relationships between gods and mortals, and deeds of superhumans, destruction, death and afterlife.

**Pre-Requisite Requirement:** Eligibility for ENGWR 300 (placement by assessment in ENGWR 300 OR completion, with a “C” or better, of ENGWR 100 or its equivalent).

### **Required Texts:**

Hamilton, *Mythology*

Homer, *The Odyssey*

Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy: Inferno*

*Beowulf*

Erdoes, *American Indian Myths and Legends*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

### **Course Requirements/Grading Breakdown:**

One 6-8 page essay (30% of final course grade)

One final project (30% of final course grade)

6 reading responses (approx. 2 pages each) (30% of final grade)

In-class quizzes (usually two per assigned text) (10% of final grade)

Attendance/Participation – see below – no percentage, but may factor into final course grade

## **General Course Policies:**

### **Assignments:**

- With the exception of the quizzes, all assignment due dates are listed in the Schedule of Assignments (attached). Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class in advance.
- Any essay not submitted on or before the due date, at the start of class, will be counted late, and the grade will be lowered for each day the essay is late. The latest I will accept a late essay is two class periods after the original due date. Any essay not turned in within this time frame will receive a grade of "F."
- Reading responses and final projects will not be accepted late – NO EXCEPTIONS! Sorry, but there are no make-ups on quizzes.
- An extra credit option will be made available ONLY to those who have submitted ALL assignments ON TIME. Extra credit will not be accepted to "substitute" for missed assignments or to compensate for a late grade or work that has received a failing grade due to plagiarism.

### **Attendance:**

I do not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences; essentially, all absences are "unexcused." Because of the compressed semester we will cover a significant amount of material in each class period, and regular attendance is a MUST. Sacramento City College policy permits me to drop you after three absences; I tend to be a bit more generous, but after the FIFTH absence (that is, on the sixth one), I will most likely drop you.

### **Academic Dishonesty (a nice way of saying "Cheating"):**

Plagiarism (from the Greek word for "kidnapper") is the appropriation of another person's original words, thoughts, ideas, data, etc. as one's own, whether on purpose OR inadvertent. It occurs in several different forms, all of which are considered cheating. All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- Failure to properly cite the source of any material borrowed from an outside source (including books, periodicals, and, of course, the Internet); this includes failure to use quotation marks to distinguish another author's exact words from your own, failure to give credit for the paraphrased ideas of others, and failure to include bibliographic information for all secondary sources used
- Submitting any assignment NOT written by you (i.e. an essay written by a friend or purchased from an online essay/term paper "dealer" or an essay copied in its entirety from a book, magazine or other media source

\*\*Please note that I treat plagiarism as a serious ethical problem; it is simply unacceptable for any reason. If you have ANY questions or concerns regarding how to incorporate sources correctly or avoid plagiarism, please see me for help. Please also note that I reserve the right to submit all or part of any student work, including essays, quizzes, and presentation write-ups, to Turnitin.com, an originality checking website designed to detect plagiarism. And, please note that any assignment in which there is verified plagiarism will receive a failing grade.

### **Appropriate Classroom Conduct:**

This should be obvious, but in case it isn't, the following is a list of behaviors that are considered – at the very least – inappropriate in this class:

- Talking while your classmates or teacher are speaking (I assure you, you'll have plenty of opportunities to participate in discussion, should you wish to do so; should you not wish to participate, please just listen – or humor me and at least **pretend** to listen);
- Sleeping in class (if you're that tired or bored, please stay home; if you choose to fall asleep in class, be prepared not only to be marked absent, but also to have cruel pranks played on you while you slumber);
- Reading unrelated materials and/or doing homework for other classes during class time (I doubt your art teacher would be thrilled to see you reading poetry in his/her class; please refrain from doing art in mine unless I ask you to);
- Using any electronic device that rings, beeps, buzzes, vibrates, flashes, takes photos, contains any kind of microchip whatsoever and/or – most importantly – plays music of any kind; phones should be on vibrate or silent mode and must be in your purse, backpack, or pocket – NOT on your desk or in your lap, "hidden" where I "can't see" them. **To reiterate: I don't want to see your phone. You won't see mine, either, except perhaps at the beginning of class when I am turning it on "silent" and putting it away so that it won't disrupt the class.**
- Antagonizing or ridiculing others (I have a sense of humor just like everyone else, but I'm dead serious about this. If you can't exchange ideas with others without belittling them, please re-consider taking this class);
- Chronic late arrival to and early exit from class.

If you've read the above and are asking yourself "Why is she telling me this? I'm in college, for crying out loud!" then it's highly unlikely you'll do any of the things listed, and I'm not talking to you. If you recognize yourself in any (or many, or ALL) of the above, and you don't think you can separate yourself from those behaviors for two class periods per week, this probably isn't a

good class for you.

**Tentative Schedule of Assignments for the Fall 2011 semester**

(PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. I WILL DO MY BEST TO ANNOUNCE ANY CHANGES WELL IN ADVANCE.)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments Due:</b>
Tuesday, August 23	Course Overview/Introduction
Thursday, August 25	Intro to Myth; Why We Tell Stories; "Genres" of Storytelling – Come prepared to talk about your favorite/most memorable story from childhood.
Tuesday, August 30	Continuation of Intro to Myth (including other similar "genres" of storytelling); Also: Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 in <i>Mythology</i>
Thursday, September 1	Ch. 3-5 in <i>Mythology</i>
Tuesday, September 6	Ch. 6-8 in <i>Mythology</i>
Thursday, September 8	Ch. 13-16 in <i>Mythology</i> ; <b>Reading Response Due</b>
Tuesday, September 13	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 1-5)
Thursday, September 15	Continue <i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 6-10)
Tuesday, September 20	Continue <i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 11-15)
Thursday, September 22	<i>The Odyssey</i> (Books 16-20)
Tuesday, September 27	Finish <i>The Odyssey</i> ; <b>Reading Response Due</b>
Thursday, September 29	Intro to <i>Beowulf</i>
Tuesday, October 4	<i>Beowulf</i> (to line 1000)
Thursday, October 6	Continue <i>Beowulf</i> (to line 1922)
Tuesday, October 11	Finish <i>Beowulf</i> ; <b>Reading Response Due</b>
Thursday, October 13	TBA
Tuesday, October 18	Intro to Arthurian Legend; <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (Parts 1 and 2)
Thursday, October 20	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (Part 3)
Tuesday, October 25	<i>Inferno</i> , Cantos 1-10
Thursday, October 27	<i>Inferno</i> , Cantos 11-20
Tuesday, November 1	<i>Inferno</i> , Cantos 20-30
Thursday, November 3	Finish <i>Inferno</i> ; <b>Reading Response Due</b>
Tuesday, November 8	Assignment of Final Project

Thursday, November 10	Introduction to Part Seven and Ch. 22-23 in <i>Mythology</i>
Tuesday, November 15	<i>Selections from American Indian Myths and Legends (TBA); <b>ESSAY DUE!</b></i>
Thursday, November 17	<i>Selections from American Indian Myths and Legends (TBA); <b>Reading Response Due</b></i>
Tuesday, November 22	Myth in Popular Culture
Thursday, November 24	<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!!!</b>
Tuesday, November 29	More on Myth in Popular Culture
Thursday, December 1	Presentation of Projects
Tuesday, December 6	Presentation of Projects
Thursday, December 8	Presentation of Projects
Tuesday, December 13	FINAL EXAM PERIOD: 8:00-10:00 a.m.; Finish presentation of projects as needed.