ENGL 2309-001: INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY: MYTH AND MODERN CULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING
SUMMER I SEMESTER 2021

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Syllabus Contents

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview 2
How to Take this Course 3
Course Policies 4
Grading Scale 5

SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION

Required Texts 5
Course Requirements 5
Course Assignments 5
Course Overview

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Study of Greek, Roman, and Hebraic mythology, emphasizing the role of myth in history, culture, and consciousness. Prerequisite: six semester hours of freshman English.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ancient myths shape our modern culture. In this course, we will pair ancient myths with their modern "retellings" to address pressing social, political, and cultural issues. Among other conversations, we will consider the connections between Sophocles' play Antigone and the debates surrounding Covid-19; how Captain America is a modern-day Aeneas, the fabled Trojan hero and founder of Rome; why Medusa remains a figure of great fascination and connects to contemporary conversations about rape culture; and how the story of the Minotaur helps frame important questions about the use of drones in modern warfare. By identifying the important and formative links between ancient myths and their modern analogues, we can better assess the issues that matter most in eras past and present.
How to take this course

WADING This is your first - and may be your only - literature course, so you want to "stay in the shallows." You also aren't that familiar with mythology and ancient cultures, so you are going to need some "water wings" in the form of additional supplementary material and instructor guidance to stay afloat. Waders are used to skimming the surface in their writing, rather than plunging into the depths.

SNORKELING You're familiar with classical literature - you not only know the Greek gods and their Roman counterparts, but you know a lot of the stories that inform that mythology - and you're ready to take your knowledge into deeper waters. Snorkelers understand that the interplay between literature and history, especially when dealing with ancient texts, is often key to unlocking meaning. They are keen to explore the way texts "talk" to each other. They are equipped to look extensively at a text and from multiple angles, both in discussion posts and in their formal writing.

SCUBA DIVING You're very comfortable with "the deeps" of literary analysis, and you enjoy approaching your writing in a highly critical and thoughtful fashion. You actively seek out additional readings and information, and prefer writing assignments that challenge your skill sets. Scuba divers are highly driven by curiosity and are passionate about taking their writing and their knowledge well beyond the shallows.

IN HER EXCELLENT SYLLABUS FOR HER US HISTORY SURVEY II COURSE AT WORCESTER UNIVERSITY, DR. TONA HANGEN ENCOURAGES HER STUDENTS TO THINK OF HER COURSE AS THE OCEAN AND "TO GO AS DEEP" AS THEY DARE. USING HER CONCEPT - WITH SOME ADJUSTMENTS FOR OUR COURSE - I EXTEND THE SAME INVITATION TO YOU.
Course Policies

LATE WORK I allow one "whoops" for late work, which means you can turn in ONE essay up to twenty-four hours late WITHOUT PENALTY. Otherwise, a paper that is a full day late will be automatically marked down a half grade after I have read and graded the paper; two days late results in a full grade markdown; and three days late is an automatic "D" (with potential for additional markdown). No papers will be accepted four days after the posted paper deadline.

PLAGIARISM First offense: a zero for the paper and a report issued to the appropriate academic dean; second offense: a failing grade for the course, and a report issued to the appropriate academic dean. For more information on how plagiarism and academic integrity are defined, please consult the university’s policy here: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrit y.asp.

DISABILITY SERVICES To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-2004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely fashion may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

COUNSELING SERVICES Students who are experiencing mental health issues or would like help managing stress, anxiety, substance abuse, etc., are encouraged to seek the services of SFA's counseling office, located on the third floor of the Rusk building. Their phone number is 468-2401 and their email is counseling@sfasu.edu. To learn more about their services, go to their website: http://www.sfasu.edu/counseling services/.

EMAIL For all email correspondence for this course, please email me at hoaglande@d2l.sfasu.edu. Make sure to email me from your own D2L email account and not your SFA Jacks account or personal email account.

"Mythology is poetry. It is beyond words [and] beyond images." Joseph Campbell
Course Requirements & Assignment Deadlines

For more information on all assignments, refer to guidelines in the "Assignments" Module.

Engaged Reading Discussion Board Posts (25%): Students will complete 1-2 Discussion Boards post a week, or a total of 8 over the course of six weeks.

Reading Journal (35%): Students will write 1-2 entries in their Reading Journal each week. These entries are short (between 200-250 words each) and are in response to a specific prompt. Students will write a total of 14 Reading Journal entries for the course.

Myth Reimagined in Art and Literature Essay (20%): Students will write a 4-5 page essay examining a myth that has been adapted / re-imagined in a work of art or literature, focusing on a major political, social, or cultural issue explored in the myth and its later rendering.

Ancient Myth and Modern Debate Essay (20%): Students will write a 5-6 page essay in which they take a position regarding a debate connected to a modern-day issue, concern, or problem, and use both primary material (the myth related to the issue), and secondary source material on the modern-day issue to build their argument.

Required Texts (all available online)


Grading Scale:

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 59 and below