

LIT-2330 World Mythology: Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peggy Wilfong

OFFICE: Williams 105

PREREQUISITE: ENG-1400 Composition

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Burrows, David J., Frederick R. Lapedes, and John T. Shawcross, ed. *Myths and Motifs in Literature*. New York: The Free Press, 1973.

Leonard, Scott and Michael McClure. *Myth and Knowing: An Introduction to World Mythology*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2004.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Study of world mythologies, the theories of myth and myth-making, and the development of myth to modern times.

CONTENT: The Cedarville University general education course World Mythology (LIT-2330) provides, from a Biblical perspective, an introduction to various world mythologies and to literary selections incorporating mythological motifs. Qualified high school students are welcome to take the course; however, parents should understand that the course readings will treat some mature subjects (such as sexuality and elements of non-Christian belief systems) at a college level of discussion. Parents are advised to weigh carefully whether their teens are ready for this type of reading and level of discussion; we encourage parents to take an active role in engaging and advising their children as we deal with such delicate subjects in a Christian context.

In this course, we will be reading and discussing weekly the two texts in an effort to gain understanding about the functions of myth and the ways in which those functions are represented in literature, including selections by classical and modern writers. Of central importance to us as we work through the texts will be our attempt to look at mythology through a biblical perspective in order to discern the universals which myths reveal about human nature and the ways in which people appropriate myths to define their life experiences.

You will be reading assigned selections from both texts. You'll be expected to participate in a chat group (group assignments will be made at the beginning of the semester) and post to a weekly blog discussion. Almost, if not, every Friday quizzes will be given. On the Friday at the end of each unit, tests will be administered. Quizzes and tests will be available on designated Fridays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

POLICIES

- **Make-up Work** -- Quizzes and tests must be taken on designated days. **If you fail to take a quiz or test on the designated day, you may not make it up.** Please do not ask for exceptions to this policy.
- **Late Papers** – Your major paper **will not be accepted for credit if it is submitted via e-mail later than noon on the due date. However, the paper must be submitted in order to fulfill course requirements. In other words, passing all quizzes and tests but failing to submit the major paper will result in failure of this course.**
- **Plagiarism** --Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be treated lightly. Enforcement of the penalty for plagiarism will not preclude the possibility of failure of the assignment in question and/or failure of the course.

Academic Assistance Office -- If you believe you may need support in managing the impact of a disability, please contact Amy Frey, afrey@cedarville.edu, (Disability Services). Faculty rely on Disability Services to verify the need for academic accommodations and to identify reasonable and appropriate accommodation strategies. Disability Services is part of the Academic Enrichment Center-The Cove located in the BTS building.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Class Participation (10%)** -- You are expected to read assignments and to log in to engage in discussions about the reading. Discussion questions are included in weekly assignments. Each week you will participate in the blog discussion about the posed question. When you are ready to participate, click on Discussions in the left menu. There you will see a posting for each week. Click on the appropriate week and click REPLY to post your comments. These discussions will be monitored by the instructor.

Participation in your group's blog will be tracked and will affect your participation grade. However, not contributing to the conversation in a significant and substantial way will result in the lowering of your participation grade.

Assignments are to be read as assigned.

- **Quizzes (15%)** Quizzes, based on the daily reading assignments, will be given almost weekly. They will be either objective (matching, etc.), short answer, or short essay.
- **Paper (25%)** You will be responsible to read a novel which offers insights into a non-Western (non-Christian) mythological system (books about Hebrew or Greek classical myths are also excluded from this assignment). As you read, you should pay attention to how characters rely upon myth in order to construct meaning out of or to explain their life experiences. Keep a running list of references (include page numbers) to specific gods or goddesses, creation stories, worship rites and/or sacrifices, explanations of an afterlife, etc., and of the context of those references.

The first section of your paper should be no fewer than 3-4 pages in length and will contain a summary of the ways in which various characters in the novel relied on aspects of their mythological system to construct meaning out of or to explain their life experiences.

The second section of the paper should be 5-7 pages in length and should consist of in-depth, researched explorations of at least two facets of the novel's mythological system which you found particularly intriguing. Use valid, multiple sources (books and scholarly journals) (**not .com sites**) in researching material for the second section of the paper. NOTE: Papers using **.com sites** as sources will receive failing grades since these are not considered suitable academic sources.

The paper should follow MLA format (parenthetical citations at conclusion of sentences) and should conclude with a Works Cited page (be sure to include an entry for your novel).

Note: Late papers will not be accepted for credit but must be submitted in order to fulfill course requirements. **Please do not ask for extensions.** Plan to complete your paper in advance of the due date so that last-minute crises (personal or electronic) do not cause you to miss the due date. **The paper is due via e-mail to the instructor at noon on due date (see assignments).**

- **Unit Tests (50%)** Unit tests will be administered at regular intervals throughout the semester.

GRADE WEIGHTING

10% Participation in Posted Discussions

15% Quizzes

25% Paper

50% Unit Tests

GRADING SCALE

A 100-95

A- 94-93

B+ 92-91

B 90-85

B- 84-80

C+ 79-78

C 77-74

C-	73-70
D+	69-68
D	67-64
D-	63-60
F	59-0