Course Description: “Mythology analyzes the nature of myth and explores dominant themes and archetypes in the myths of various cultures. These myths, studied in the context of today’s world, help students develop an increased awareness of the influence of myth on contemporary life.”

We will explore a variety of myths, legends, folk tales and fairy tales from many cultures, but the center of our study this semester will focus on Greek tragedy. We will also discuss the origin of myths, the relationship between myth and ritual, archetypes found in myth, literature and art, the hero cycle, the links between mythic thinking and spirituality as well as other related topics.

Objectives:
1. Students will understand the major archetypes in myths; creation myths, flood stories, fire theft, tricksters, resurrection etc.
2. Students will become familiar with myths and folktales from a variety of cultures including Babylonian, Egyptian, Hebrew, American Indian, Hindu, African, Celtic, Norse and others.
2. Students will be able to identify the major gods and tales of the Greeks and Romans, and understand how artists, through the ages, have used myths as the foundation of some of their works.
3. Students will understand psychological, anthropological, historic and aesthetic aspect of the study of mythology.
4. Students will become familiar with theories of mythology, including the ideas of Frazer, Freud, Jung, Campbell, Eliade, Rank, and others.
5. Students will understand the relationship between drama, myth and ritual.

Required Reading:
*Gilgamesh*. David Ferry, trans.. Noonday Press.
*Euripides V; Electra, Bacchae etc*. University of Chicago Press.
*Prometheus Bound* - Aeschylus.
*The Bloody Chamber* – Angela Carter
Student Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend class. After three absences students may be dropped from the class. Students who leave at the break will be marked absent. Absences will have an effect on your final grade.

2. Students are expected to keep a notebook for both notes and journal responses.

3. Students are expected to do all the reading and participate in class discussion.

4. Students are expected to hand in all assignments when they are due.

Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>One short paper 2-3 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>One longer paper/ Project 5-7 pages</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion/ Attendance / Journal / 3-4Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Class 1 – 9/7 Introduction : Toward a Definition of Myth and Archetypes (Frazier, Jung, Freud, Campbell)

Class 2 – 9/14 Cosmic Myths -Creation Myths: – Leeming 15-42 (Egyptian p.17; Mesopotamian p.18; Hebrew p.24; Greek; 32; Christian p35; Big Bang p.41)

Class 3 - 9/21 Cosmic Myths -Creation Myths, Afterlife, Apocalypse Leeming 64-88 (Osiris p. 65; Hopi p. 72; Book of Revelations p.79, Indian p. 81; Norse p. 85)

Class 4 – 9/28 Gilgamesh 1 Pages 3-44, Iron Hans (Handout) Quiz on Gilgamish

Class 5– 10/5 Class Cancelled -

Class 6- 10/12 Gilgamesh 2 Pages 44-82, Flood Stories Leeming (Hebrew p.47; Greek p.56) First Paper DUE Gods & Goddesses: Leeming 95- 145; 195- 213

Class 7 – 10/19 Campbell, The Message of Myth (filmed interview) Quiz on Greek Pantheon 98-118

Class 8 - 10/26 Fire Theft / Forbidden Knowledge : Prometheus Bound Quiz, “The Myth of Sisyphus,” Camus (handout)

Class 9 – 11/2 The Dying God / Dionysus: The Bacchae, Midterm QUIZ Leeming 146-163 (Osiris p.147; Adonis p. 153; Dionysus p.156; Jesus p157), Nietzsche, “The Birth of Tragedy” (handout). Project Topics Due

Class 11 – 11/16 The Hero Quest, - Rites of Passage: Leeming 298- 311 (Herakles p228 &274; Jonah p. 255; King Arthur p.243 & p.252; Campbell, The Hero’s Adventure (Filmed interview). Project Update

The Trickster and The Fool: Leeming 163-172 (Coyote p.169; Legba p.171); , Selected Fairy Tales. Opie (Jack and the Beanstalk p. 211

Project Update Continued

Class 12 – 5/1 Selected Fairy Tales – Opie (Sleeping Beauty p. 102; Little Red Riding Hood p. 119, Rumpelstiltskin p 253; Goldilocks p 260)

Project Due

Week 13- 5/8 Selected Fairy and Folk Tales – Opie (Bluebeard p.133, Cinderella p. 152; Beauty and the Beast p. 179; Snow White p. 227)

Week 14 – 5/15 Final Exam