

**ENGL 2230: INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY**  
**Fall 2009 Course Syllabus**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the nature and function of myth through the reading of Greek, Native American, Hebrew, Christian, and other world mythologies. Emphasis on comparative mythology and the structure of myth.

**MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION:**

TR 1:00-2:20 p.m.

BC 301

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Kyle Bishop

Office:

BC 304A

Office Hours:

MTWRF 10–11, MW 2–3, TR 3–4, or by appointment

Telephone:

586-7804

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will become familiar with a variety of foundational world mythologies and develop the ability to analyze, interpret, and discuss the literary elements of mythological fiction. They will read a variety of classic and definitive texts, watch documentary footage and four representative films, and respond to those cultural objects through class discussion, oral presentations, and the composition of various writing assignments. Further assessment will be accomplished through quizzes and exams.

**TEXTS:**

*Beowulf*. Ed. and trans. Seamus Heaney. New York: Norton, 2000. ISBN: 978-0393320878

Leeming, David Adams. *The World of Myth*. New York: Oxford UP, 1990. ISBN: 978-0195074758

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Ed. and trans. Charles Martin. New York: Norton, 2004. ISBN: 978-8393326420

**SUPPLIES:**

A notebook or three-ring binder with ruled paper for in-class writing and note taking

Photocopying and printing expenses for research, papers, and other assignments

A jump drive for backing up all essays and other homework

**COURSE STANDARDS AND POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Punctuality and regular attendance are required at all class meetings. Roll will be taken daily, and participation points will be awarded for completion of in-class assignments, activities, and discussions. In addition, frequent reading quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class.

**These attendance points and quizzes cannot be made up, even if an absence is excused.**

**Class Decorum and Behavior:** Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the duration of the scheduled period. During class, students should listen attentively, engage respectfully in discussions, and **take notes**. They are also expected to come to class prepared and to participate in all in-class assignments and activities. Although water will be permitted, **food of any kind is not tolerated in the classroom, and cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class—this includes text messaging**. Students need to stay in their seats until class has been properly dismissed.

**MLA Manuscript Format:** All assignments must be word processed and comply with MLA formatting guidelines; that is, papers **must** have 1" margins; be typed in a 12-point, Times New Roman font; and be double spaced throughout. Students may **not** use cover pages; instead, the first page of all assignments must contain the student's name, the instructor's name, the course title, and the date (with the month spelled out) on separate lines against the left margin. All assignments must also have a descriptive title, centered and just below the date line. Each page must then have a page number, preceded by the student's last name, in the upper right corner ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the margin).

**Assignment Length:** Assignments are given minimum page-length requirements, and these are references to **full pages**, not sheets. For example, a 2-page paper must be **at least 2 full pages** long, not just  $1\frac{1}{4}$  pages.

**Late Work:** All homework is due at the beginning of class on the day indicated in the course schedule. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Furthermore, assignments must be submitted as hard copies; **e-mails or other electronic submissions will not be accepted**. If students know they are going to miss class, assignments **must** be handed in early, not late. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made **in advance** and at the instructor's discretion.

**Grades:** All students' grades are recorded, managed, and calculated on an Excel spreadsheet, which is updated regularly. For privacy issues, these grades are not available on the internet; however, students may ask via e-mail or in person about their grade and current class standing.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

**Participation:** (20 percent of final grade) Students will participate in various activities and complete many assignments in class, including reading quizzes, class discussions, student discussion groups, in-class writing assignments, other in-class activities, and the viewing of presentations. Most importantly, **students are expected to come to class prepared**—they shouldn't expect the rest of the class to bear the weight of preparation and participation; quizzes will be employed more frequently if the instructor notes rampant lack of preparatory reading. **Students must be in class to complete these activities and assignments.**

**Response Papers:** (10 percent of final grade) Students will complete **five** 2-page response papers. Students should go beyond simply sharing their own thoughts and ideas about the works—What is really going on in the text? How does the text do something new? What kind of cultural work is being attempted by the text? These short essays will be graded on a pass/fail basis, but they must be word processed, MLA formatted, and at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -pages long to receive full credit.

**Presentation:** (10 percent of final grade) Each student will investigate a mythological creature, character, figure, or topic selected from a shared list or approved of by the instructor, prepare a 5-minute presentation, and present it to the class. A handout (with enough copies for the whole class) must also be provided, and although audio/visual media enhancements are encouraged, they are not required. Students will sign up for topics and dates in class.

**Exams:** (60 percent of final grade) Students will take two exams, both a midterm and a final. Questions will include multiple-choice, passage identification and analysis, and short essay answers. Exams may be taken early under extenuating circumstances and at the instructor’s discretion, but early final exams do carry a rescheduling fee. Students are responsible for providing their own examination Blue Books.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Participation and in-class activities will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Response papers will be assigned full-letter grades, with possible penalties for failing to follow MLA format, writing less than the required two pages, and/or neglecting to staple/paperclip the pages together. Quizzes, the presentation, and exams will be graded objectively. Students’ final grades will be averaged and weighted according to the following grading scales (based on the assignment weights and the University’s 4.0/4.0 grading system):

Grading Weights	Grading Scale		
Participation.....x2 (20%)	3.8 – 4.0	A	1.8 – 2.0 C
Response Papers .....x1 (10%)	3.4 – 3.7	A-	1.4 – 1.7 C-
Presentation .....x1 (10%)	3.1 – 3.3	B+	1.1 – 1.3 D+
Exams .....x6 (60%)	2.8 – 3.0	B	0.8 – 1.0 D
	2.4 – 2.7	B-	0.4 – 0.7 D-
	2.1 – 2.3	C+	0.0 – 0.3 F

**FILM SCREENINGS:**

Optional screenings of the films discussed in class will take place on Monday evenings from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in BC 301; otherwise, copies of the films will be available on reserve in the library.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:**

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. **Any student caught deliberately plagiarizing a paper will immediately fail that assignment and possibly the entire course.** Students are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

**ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities, located in room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or (435) 865-8022. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these services and aids.

**DISCLAIMER:**

Information contained in this syllabus—other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies—may be subject to change with advance notice.