Course Title: Mythology

Course #: 1251

Course Description: This is a semester course designed for students who desire an understanding of how myths of various cultures influence literature and art. The course will use Classical Greek and Roman mythology as a base of comparison to the myths from ancient Britain, Northern Europe, the Ancient Near-East, Asia, Polynesia, and the Americas. The course will pursue comparisons of cultural themes and beliefs and the exploration of theories concerning the sources of myths. Analysis of literature and art will include close reading of appropriate texts. There will be a written component to this course that will include both essaying and researched storytelling (narrative).

UC/CSU Approval: “g” approved

Grade Level: 10-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 1-2 hours

Prerequisite: Completion of previous English course with a C or better

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

Course Grade Categories:

- Tasks/Discussions - 25% (homework, classwork, Socratic Seminars/discussions)
- Major Assessments - 60% (creative writing, research essays/projects/presentations, tests/quizzes)
- Final Project - 15%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

Students will explore the following ideas:

- What is a "myth" and how is it related to ideas of culture, belief, religion and wisdom?
- What are the striking similarities between myths and their themes that suggest how they have been used and may still be of use?
- What are the striking differences between the myths of the world and what insights can be drawn about cultures by knowing their myths?

Assessments vary per unit, but will include quizzes on myths and readings, group or individual research project presentations, creative writing pieces, creative projects, and research essays.
Unit 1: Intro to Myths and Pantheons of the gods - Students will study the pantheons of gods from different ancient cultures around the world, including Aztec, Inca, Nordic, Egyptian, ancient East Asian, Mayan, Sumerian, Celtic, etc.

Major Assessments: pantheon test, creative writing piece, research-based group project presentation on a pantheon

Unit 2: Creation and Destruction Myths - Students will read a variety of creation and destruction myths from different cultures and compare and contrast how different cultures view the world and humanity.

Major Assessments: creation/destruction test, compare/contrast essay on two cultures' creation and destruction myths

Unit 3: Mythological Monsters: Our Fears - Students will read and research about monsters from different cultures. They will also read about the psychology behind monsters and what they represent to people from different cultures.

Major Assessments: creative project where students will create their own monster and analyze the deeper meaning of the monster

Unit 4: Heroes and the Hero Cycle - Students will learn about Joseph Campbell’s Hero Cycle and analyze ancient and modern hero myths and stories.

Major Assessments: Modern Hero Analysis Presentation, creative project where students will create a hero to fight the monster from unit 3 and write a heroic myth/story about the monster and hero

Unit 5: Cultural Mythology Research Project - Students will complete an individual research-based project on a culture’s myths