

# ENG-2730: EXPLORATION OF WORLD MYTHOLOGY

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: ENG-2730 : Exploration of World Mythology**

**Board of Trustees:**

December 2021

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2022

**Subject Code**

ENG - English

**Course Number:**

2730

**Title:**

Exploration of World Mythology

**Catalog Description:**

Reading and interpreting myths throughout history and from around the world including Africa, Asia, Australasia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and North America (emphasis on non-Western cultures). Practice of various analytical approaches essential to building interpretive arguments and for identifying patterns across diverse cultures.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1020 College Composition II or ENG-102H Honors Composition II, or ENG- 2151 Technical Writing, or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Explore myths of diverse cultures and ages as literature.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

**Objective(s):**

1. Evaluate materials obtained through research.
2. Distinguish fundamentals of cultural systems and values, being careful to avoid projecting personal values on to others values.
3. Recognize and categorize story patterns (i.e. creation, destruction, hero, trickster, apocalypse, etc.) across diverse cultures.
4. Establish connections and identify allusions among different myths and the worldviews they promote.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Apply noteworthy theoretical approaches.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

**Objective(s):**

1. Identify essentials of selected interpretive theories.
2. Analyze myths based on established criteria.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Convey interpretations for significant aspects of particular myths.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

**Objective(s):**

1. Develop ideas via class discussion and written response.
2. Build arguments to support interpretive claims, paying particular attention to the cultural context for such interpretations.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Journals
2. Rubric-guided analytical essays
3. Research Project
4. Creative Group Project
5. Quizzes
6. Essay Exam

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Texts from the following continents and cultures
  - a. Africa
  - b. Asia
  - c. Australasia
  - d. Caribbean
  - e. Europe
  - f. Latin America
  - g. Middle East
  - h. North America (Native American, contemporary United States)
2. Concepts
  - a. Myths and the recording of oral traditions may be studied as literature
  - b. Myths may be interpreted from different vantage points using a variety of theoretical approaches including:
    - i. Anthropological
    - ii. Biographical
    - iii. Geographical
    - iv. Historical
    - v. Philosophical
    - vi. Political
    - vii. Psychological
    - viii. Sociological
    - ix. Structural

- c. Patterns within myths exist across cultures including:
  - i. Creation
  - ii. Destruction
  - iii. Heroes
  - iv. Tricksters
  - v. Sacred places, objects
- 3. Skills
  - a. Research myths within their cultural contexts
  - b. Recognize the patterns and peculiarities of myths across cultures
  - c. Synthesize and apply various interpretive theories to myths
  - d. Articulate interpretive insights via discussion and composition
- 4. Issues
  - a. Translation distortions
  - b. Impact of cultural values on interpretation

## Resources

Thury, Eva M. and Margaret K. Devinney. *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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Leeming, David Adams. *The World of Myth: An Anthology*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

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Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology: An Anthology of the Great Myths and Epics*. 3rd ed. Chicago: NTC Publishing Group, Inc., 2001.

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Leeming, David Adams. *Mythology: The Voyage of the Hero*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

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Ihimaera, Witi. *The Whale Rider*. Orlando: Harcourt, Inc., 2003.

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Morford, Mark; Robert J. Lenardon; Michael Sham. *Classical Mythology*. 11th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

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Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero With A Thousand Faces (The Collected Works of Joseph Campbell)*. 3rd ed. Novato, California: New World Library, 2008.

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Jung, Carl G. *Man and his Symbols*. London: Aldus Books, 1964.

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Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. New York: Vintage Books, 2010.

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Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Norse Myths*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1981.

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Hillman, James. *The Dream and the Underworld*. New York: Harper Row Publishers, Inc., 1979.

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Levi-Strauss, Claude. *Structural Anthropology*. New York: Basic Books, 1974.

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Campbell, Joseph. *The Power of Myth with Bill Moyers*. New York: Anchor Books, 1991.

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Hansen, William. *Classical Mythology: A Guide to the Mythical World of the Greeks and Romans*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

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Gurevic, Andy. "World Mythology: Myth, Metaphor, and Mystery" OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE. Mt. Hood Community College, 2021. <https://www.oercommons.org/courses/world-mythology-simple-book-publishing>

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### Resources Other

1. Cleveland Museum of Art. 2021. Cleveland, OH. <https://www.clevelandart.org/>
  2. Internet Sacred Text Archive. 2021. Santa Cruz, CA. <http://www.sacred-texts.com/>
  3. Invitation to World Literature. Annenberg Learner. 2021. <https://www.learner.org/series/invitation-to-world-literature/>
  4. Metropolitan Museum of Art. 2021. New York, NY. <http://www.metmuseum.org>
  5. Mythos. Prod. Joseph Campbell. DVD. Athena, 2011.
  6. Works to be covered (suggested):
    - a. The Epic of Gilgamesh
    - b. Enuma Elish
    - c. The Mwindo Epic
    - d. The [Ugandan] Creation (oral tradition)
    - e. The [Nigerian] Origin of Death (oral tradition)
    - f. The epic of Kotan Utunnai
    - g. Nu Kwa
    - h. Monkey King
    - i. Osiris, Isis, and Horus
    - j. Mahabharata
    - k. The Ramayana
    - l. Hesiod's Theogony; Works and Days;
  - m. Ovid's The Metamorphoses
  - n. The Poetic Edda; The Prose Edda
  - o. The Pleiades (Australian Aboriginal version)
  - p. The story of Quetzalcoatl (oral tradition)
  - q. Popol Vuh
  - r. Dine' Bahane' (oral tradition)
  - s. The Zuni Emergence Myth (oral tradition)
  - t. Raven (Native American Trickster - oral tradition)
  - u. Eshu, Legba (African Tricksters)
  - v. The Bible (for reference versus other creation, destruction, and hero stories)
7. Contemporary films/television shows as selected by the instructor (Excalibur, Lord of the Rings, The Matrix, Marvel Cinematic Universe (multiple titles), Star Trek, Star Wars, The Whale Rider, Who Framed Roger Rabbit?, The Wizard of Oz, The X-Files, etc.)
8. Cuyahoga Community College English Department (Because texts of specific myths and materials relating to their cultures are too numerous to list here, please consult Western Campus English Department for additional resources)

### Instructional Services

#### OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMAH

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