ENG 3009C-010: Myth and Culture

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Dr. Susan Bazargan  
TTH 23:15 CH 318  
Office: CH323 Phone: Office: 581-6979 Home (Champaign): 355-5784  
Office Hours: TTH 10:45-11:45 TH 12:45-2 and by appointment

Course requirements:  
I. Class attendance and participation: I call roll regularly and can disregard only two unexcused absences during the semester. If you accumulate more than two "unexplained" absences, your grade will suffer. If you are ill or have to leave campus because of a family emergency, please call my office or home and let me know.

II. Papers and Journal:  
You will write four one-page papers and one final (4-5 pages long) essay. Topics will be assigned. You need to keep a journal in which you're asked to write two entries (at least 2 pages per entry) every week. Please date all the entries. In your journal, record your responses to the material you've been asked to read that week.

III. Exams and Quizzes:  
The midterm exam will be held on 10/14; the date of the final will be announced later. Pop quizzes might be given occasionally. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Grading Policy: Short papers: 40%; long essay 15%; Midterm and quizzes 20%; Final 15%; Journal 10%  

Conferences:  
Please stop by my office to discuss any problem or question related to the course. You can also make an appointment if my regular office hours are inconvenient for you.

Other policies:  
1. The English Department's policy on plagiarism states that "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

2. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Required Texts:
Coomaraswamy, Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists
Erdoes and Ortiz, American Indian Myths and Legends
Hamilton, Mythology
Leeming, Myths of the Female Divine Goddess (MF)
Leeming, The World of Myth (WM)
Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks
Rosenberg, Folklore, Myths, and Legends (FML)
Rosenberg, World Mythology (WM)
Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying
Sproul, Primal Myths

Class Meetings:
I. Myth and Culture: Some Definitions
8/26: Introduction, hand-out (definitions of myth)
8/28: Definitions (cont.); Rosenberg, FML, pp xxi-xxxiv

II: Beginnings: Creation Myths
9/2: Sproul, "Introduction" (pp. 1-30)
9/4: Sproul, pp. 80-86 (Egyptian); Rosenberg, WM, pp.149-158 (The Middle East, "The Enuma Elish")
9/9: Sproul, 135-142 (Zoroastrian); Rosenberg, WM, 401-407 (African, Yoruba), Rosenberg, 3-14 (Greek). Bring Hamilton also.
9/11: Turn in Journals
Leeming, WM, 36-39 (Hopi), Erdoes and Ortiz, "Old Man Coyote Makes the World"
Leeming, MF, 3-16
9/16: Leeming, MF, 19-47
9/18: Sproul, 122-129 (Genesis) ; Sproul, 151-155 (Islam); Leeming, WM, 41-42 (Modern)

III: The Self and the Community
9/23: One-page paper is due.
Leeming, WM, pp. 217-221, 221-224 ("The Water Jar Boy"), Erdoes and Ortiz, "Ordeals of the Hero" 179-180, 193-209
9/30: Rosenberg, WM, "Gilgamesh"
10/2: Turn in Journals
Gilgamesh (continued)
10/7: Rosenberg, WM, "The Odyssey"
10/9: "The Odyssey"

Review
10/14: Midterm exam
10/16: Rosenberg, FML, "The Tragedy of Sohrab" 94-106, 131-157
10/21: Second one-page paper due
Rosenberg, FML, "Savitri" 373-394
10/23: Turn in journals
Coomaraswamy, The Mahabharata, 118-216
10/28: The Mahabharata (continued)
10/30: The Mahabharata (cont.)

IV: Cycles of Life and Death
11/4: Rosenberg, WM, "Demeter and Persephone" 14-20; Rosenberg, "Osiris, Isis, and Horus" pp. 159-168
11/6: Coomaraswamy, Chapter V, Buddha 245-250, 259-276

11/11: Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying (Chapters One and Two)
11/13: Turn in Journals
Third one-page paper is due
Rinpoche, Chapters Four, Five, Six

Myth and Culture: Some modern versions in the U.S.
11/18: Niehardt, Black Elk Speaks
11/20: Niehardt (continued)

THANKSGIVING BREAK
12/2: "The Spirit of Crazy Horse" (film)
12/4 Dubois, The Souls of Black Folk, pp. xi-xlii, 43-53
12/9: Dubois, 54-78, 96-108, 162-186
Turn in Journal
Fourth one-page paper is due
12/11: Dubois, 210-225, 226-233, 264-278

Exam Week:
12/15: Final paper due (in my mailbox)
Final exam date will be announced.