Summer 6-15-2000

ENG 3009-001

Martone

Eastern Illinois University

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Course Description.

We will take semiotic approach to myth as "language" as we discuss texts, art, music, and film from a range of cultures.

Texts.

Chan, Wing-Tsit, A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy.
Chandler, Semiotics for Beginners, http://www.aber.ac.uk/media/Documents/S4B/semiotic.html
Chatwin, The Songlines.
Ellison, Invisible Man.
Fluxus Portal. www.fluxus.org
Humphries, Ovid: The Metamorphoses.
Kerouac, On the Road.
Merchant, Earthcare.
Meyeroff, Peyote Hunt.
Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks.
Nguyen, Tale of Kiuv.
Powers, Yuwipi.
Rhodes, Outsider Art.
Sandars, Gilgamesh.
Snyder, No Nature.

Requirements and Evaluation.

Regular attendance and participation. (You will be allowed 2 absences. I will lower your final grade by one letter for each unexcused absence thereafter.)

Hourly examinations. There will be between 6 and 8 of these, consisting of short answer questions on our assigned reading, and an essay question. They will not be announced in advance. You can (and need) only "prepare" for them by preparing for class. Make-up examinations will not be offered. A short paper and class presentation (on occasions denoted by an asterisk [*] in the syllabus) may be substituted for one examination. (70% of grade.)

Final examination. This will consist of a short-answer component taken in class and an essay which may be written at home (30% of grade.)

You must complete all course requirements punctually to receive a passing grade in the course.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive accommodations, which I will gladly provide, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Semiotics, the Origins of Life on Earth, and Raw Art.

Weeks of June 12 and June 19

Chandler, *Semiotics for Beginners.*  
http://www.aber.ac.uk/media/Documents/S4B/semiotic.html

Ovid, *Metamorphoses.* (Page numbers TBA)  
**Discussion:** The origins of life. The Pygmalion myth in contemporary America. Pythagorean vegetarianism vs. food for "real" people.

Powers, *Yuwipi.*  
**Discussion:** Sign and symbol. Myth and ritual. The Shaman. Spiritual and borderline experiences. Sweat lodge, Vision Quest, Healing.

Meyeroff, *Peyote Hunt.*  
**Discussion:** Beauty and Being. Art/Work and Religion. Domains (personal, familiar, communal, public). History in Myth. The Quest.

Chatwin, *The Songlines.*  
**Discussion:** Colonialism and monoculture. materialism and voluntary poverty.  
Group projects on Australian artist Gordon Bennett.  
View excerpts of *Mad Max.*

Rhodes, *Outsider Art.*  
**Fluxus Portal.** www.fluxus.org  
**Discussion:** Notions of sanity and madness. Institutions. Commodification. Projects/presentations on selected artists. *
Interlude:

In and Around the Middle Kingdom

Weeks of June 26 and July 3.

Chan, *Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy.* (Page numbers, TBA.)
Discussion: Confucius, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, T'ang Dynasty Poetry. *

Du, *The Tale of Kieu.*
View *The Scent of Green Papayas.*

American Barbarism.

Weeks of July 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Woman:Nature = Man:Culture? Ecocatastrophe. *
View excerpts of *Terminator.*

Ellison, *Invisible Man.*
Postcards from lynchings. Randall Johnson, *The Debt.* *
View excerpts of *Boys in the 'Hood.*

Kerouac, *On the Road.*
Discussion: Beat and Counter-cultures. TV and Suburbia. Violence and indifference. *

Snyder, *No Nature.*