Summer 6-15-1997

ENG 3009-001

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Course Description.

Myth and Culture is an introduction to comparative mythology. This course will expose you to a range of texts, reflecting diverse ways in which human beings have understood themselves and their relation to the cosmos and to each other. We will approach these texts from a number of perspectives—structuralist, historical, and literary-critical among them—as we attempt to define what makes each distinctive and how each contributes to the underlying unity (if there is one) of the human imagination.

Texts.

Buck, *The Mahabharata.*
Chatwin, *The Songlines.*
Easwaran, *The Bhagavad Gita.*
Fitzgerald, *The Odyssey of Homer.*
Humphries, *Ovid: The Metamorphoses.*
Lhalungpa, *The Life of Milarepa.*
Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks.*
*The New English Bible.*
Powers, *Yuwipi.*
Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught.*
Richards, *The Iliad of Homer.*
Sanders, *The Epic of Gilgamesh.*
Schneider, *Street Zen.*
Zolbrod, *Dine Bahane.*

Packet of photocopies.

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.)

Weekly 2-page, typed papers (25% of grade).

Midterm and final examinations (50% of grade).

7-page final paper on an approved topic (25% 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, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Schedule.

June 10, Preliminaries, *Art Brut.*
June 12, Chatwin, *The Songlines.* Spencer and Ryan.*
June 19, *Black Elk Speaks.* *Yuwipi.*
June 26, *Gilgamesh.*
July 1, *Genesis.*
July 8, *The Iliad.*

July 15, *Ovid: Screening and discussion of Black Orpheus.*
July 22, *What the Buddha Taught.*
July 22, *Final paper topic due.*
July 29, *The Life of Milarepa.*
July 29, *Final paper due.*

* Photocopied reading(s).