

Spring 1-15-2018

## ENG 3009G-001: Myth and Culture

Dagni Bredesen  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_spring2018](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2018)



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Bredesen, Dagni, "ENG 3009G-001: Myth and Culture" (2018). *Spring 2018*. 36.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_spring2018/36](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2018/36)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2018 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2018 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

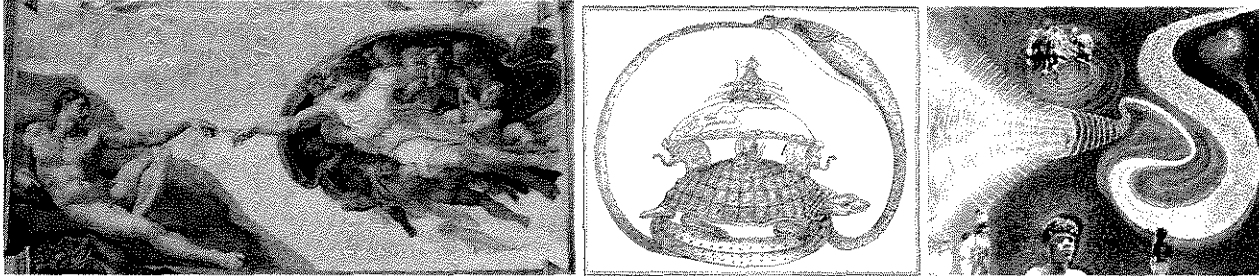
**Engl 3009: Myth and Culture  
Spring Semester 2018**

**Dr. Dagni Bredesen**

**Email: [dabredesen@eiu.edu](mailto:dabredesen@eiu.edu) (Best Way to Reach Me)**

**Office: CH 3751**

**Office Hours: Mon: 10-10:50am, Tu 2-3pm,  
or by appointment**



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Modern society sometimes uses “myth” as another word for “lie” (“the Five Myths of Weight-Loss Exploded!”). But cultures and literary masterpieces have developed myths as a way to deeper truths. Myths help structure our thought; we live by certain myths. Rather than a chronological look at the myths of different civilizations, this course juxtaposes Classic mythic stories of different cultures with modern ones. Themes of this course will begin with “Origins,” and end with “Collisions.”

**TEXTS:**

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Purple Hibiscus*.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*.

Euripides. *Medea*

Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology: an Anthology of Great Myths and Epics*.

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Yahgulanaas, Michael Nicoll. *Red: A Haida Manga*.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Students will read, compare, discuss, and write about myths and their diverse intersections with and impacts upon other myths and cultures, including their own. In the process, students will develop and expand their skills to think critically, conduct relevant research from reliable sources, present their ideas and research in informal small group settings and formal presentations for the whole class.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES**

Two Essays (and revisions)	35% (15% and 20% respectively)
Final Research-based Paper	20%
Lightning Talk	5%
Exams: Mid Term (10%) Final (15%)	25%
Participation*	15%

\*Note: Participation in this class means showing up, and showing up means, attending the class itself and prepared by having read the assigned texts for each day (AND bringing them to class), able and willing to contribute thoughtfully to the class conversation. Participation also includes being mindful of what other classmates are saying and responding to their ideas as well as the instructor's. Learning each other's names and building on each other's ideas about our texts is part of participation and good classroom citizenship.

**POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates 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" (the *Random House Dictionary of 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 assigned essay, and for the course and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Papers and Exams: Hand papers in on time. Late papers will be reduced 5 percentage points of that assignment for each day the paper is late without a university approved excuse (verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation for an official University activity). If you miss an exam and you have a university approved excuse you may make up that exam. You will have no more than one week to do so, and the make-up exam may differ from the one given during class.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please note that arrangements must be made through the Office of Disability Services; you should, therefore, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible and, of course, let the instructor know what accommodations are needed.

If you require general help with your studies, please make an appointment with the Student Success Center. 217-581-6696.

ALSO, EIU's Writing Center, located at 3110 Coleman Hall, has consultants that can help you brainstorm, organize, develop support for, and document your papers. BUT, they do not provide proof-reading or editing services.

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
JANUARY 8 Introductions/What is Myth? What is Culture? Origins  Assignment: Read Yoruba Creation Myth and Polynesian Creation myth and Bolivian Creation Myth	10 What do creation myths tell us about the culture that produces them?  Assignment: Choose two other Creation myths	12 Discussion Assignment: Read Gilgamesh (Rosenberg 26-57)  Intro to Final Projects and Presentations/Lightning Talks
15 <b>ML KING'S BIRTHDAY</b>  <b>NO CLASSES</b>	17 Gilgamesh Guest Scholar: Dr. Newton Key (History)	19 Gilgamesh: The Hero's Journey
22 Darmok	24 Discuss Darmok Introduce Jason and the Argonauts (Rosenberg 159-203)	26 Discuss Jason—is his a hero's journey? Assignment: Read Medea (the play & Rosenberg Historical Background 204-209).
29 <i>Medea</i> by Euripides Guest: Anne Thibault (Theatre)	31 <i>Medea</i> —Is hers a hero's journey? Introduction to <i>Oedipus Rex</i>	2 <b>FEBRUARY</b> EIUnity Conference in MLK jr Student Union
5 <i>Oedipus Rex</i> —story v plot Freytag's Pyramid Who am I?	7 Start watching <i>Minority Report</i> Assignment: Finish Watching and be prepared to discuss for Friday's class  First Paper Topics distributed	9 Discuss <i>Minority Report</i> /Compare with <i>Oedipus</i>
12 Writing Workshop: Bring Introductions	14 <b>First Paper Due/Workshop</b> <b>Note: Workshop Revision due at Conference *</b> <small>* Conferences scheduled Tu, W, Th Week 7</small>  Midterm Study Sheets distributed	16 <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b>
19 <b>Group Work--Midterm Exam Prep</b>	21 <b>Midterm</b>	23 Introduce <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
26 <i>Heart of Darkness</i>  First Paper Second Revision Due	28 <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	2 March <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Assignment: Achebe essay
5 Discuss Achebe essay Read assigned text (TBA)	7 Discuss assigned text. Introduce <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	9 <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
12	14	16

<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> Intro to <i>Purple Hibiscus</i> <b>Paper 2 Assignment</b>	No Class Please start reading <i>Purple Hibiscus</i>
Spring BREAK 19	Spring Break 21	Spring Break 23
<i>Purple Hibiscus</i> 26 This week Faculty/Student Conferences to discuss final projects	<i>Purple Hibiscus</i> 28	<i>Purple Hibiscus</i> 30
<i>Purple Hibiscus</i> April 2 Paper 2 Due 3 Hardcopies Zotero workshop for final papers Faculty/Student Conferences this week.	Intro to <i>RED</i> 4  Conferences W/Th/Fr	<i>RED</i> 13
Lightning Talk Presentations 9 <b>ALL</b> Lightning Talks due in D2L by Noon	Lightning Talk Presentations 11 <b>Paper 2 Revisions Due in D2L</b>	Lightning Talk Presentations 13
Lightning Talk Presentations 16	Remaining Lightning Talks 18 Writing Workshop: Introductions Bring intros to class	Writing Workshop: Key Sentences Bring 3 copies of 3 pages of final paper to class. 20
Intro and Conclusion workshop Bring sheet with your revised intro and conclusion to class (3 copies) 23	Final Exam Prep sheet 25	TBA Final Project Due 27
30	<b>Wednesday May 2</b> <b>EXAM 12:30-2:30pm</b> <i>Return final papers</i>	

Semester closes/Grades due – May 7 at 4 p.m.