

Fall 8-15-2017

# ENG 3009G 001: Myth and Culture

Dagni Bredesen  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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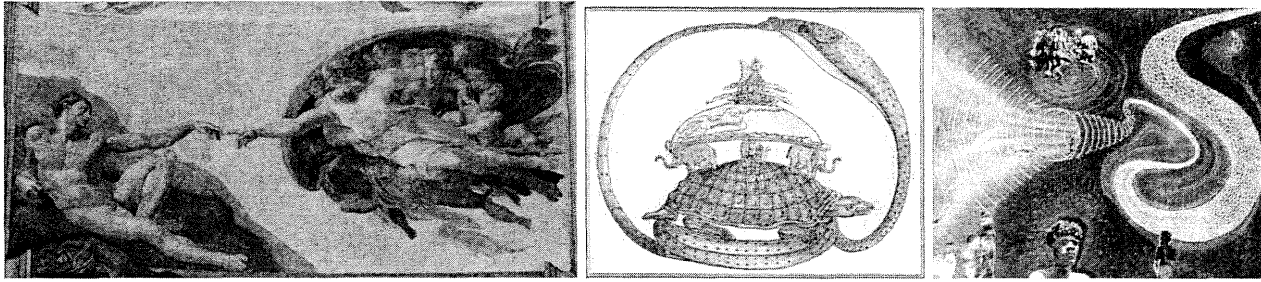
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Engl 3009: Myth and Culture  
Fall Semester 2017

Dr. Dagni Bredesen  
Contact number: 217-549-4355  
Email: [dabredesen@eiu.edu](mailto:dabredesen@eiu.edu)  
Office: CH 3751

Office Hours: Mon: 3-4:30 pm, Tu/Th 11.00 am-12.00pm,  
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*.  
Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology: an Anthology of Great Myths and Epics*.  
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*  
Warner, Marina. *Six Myths of Our Time*.  
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)	30% (15% each)
Final Research-based Paper	20%
Final Presentations	10%
Exams: Mid Term (10%) Final (15%)	25%
Participation*	15%

\*Note: Participation in this class means showing up, that means, attending the class itself and prepared by having read the assigned texts for each day, 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 1/3 of a letter grade 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 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.

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.

## **Course Schedule:**

Please read and come prepared to discuss works scheduled for each day.

Note: This schedule may be subject to changes according to class needs.

### **Week 1**

**Tu (8/22)** Introductions

**Th (8/24):** Creation stories see assigned Rosenberg:

### **Week 2**

**Tu (08/29)** Gilgamesh

**Th (08/31)** "Jason and the Golden Fleece" Rosenberg pp 159-203 and Warner ch 2 "Boys will be Boys"

### **Weeks 3**

**Tu (09/05)** Guest Lecturer: Dr. Lee Patterson (History)

**Th (09/07)** "Medea" Rosenberg pp 204-246, Warner ch 1 "Monstrous Mothers"

### **Week 4**

**Tu (09/12)** Continue discussion of "Jason" and "Medea" and Warner Essays, intro *Oedipus Rex*

**Th (09/14)** *Oedipus Rex* Introduce the Single Page Essay and possible topics

### **Week 5**

**Tu (09/19)** *Oedipus Rex*

**Th (09/21)** Start watching *Minority Report* (finish watching on D2L)

### **Week 6**

**Tu (09/26)** Discussion of *OR and MR*

**Th (09/28) NO CLASS\*** A good time to visit the writing center

**Week 7**

**Tu (10/03)** Paper 1 due and workshop

**Th (10/05)** Warner "Home"

**Week 8**

**Tu (10/10)** Midterm

**Th (10/12)** Warner "Cannibal Tales"; Intro to *Heart of Darkness* (HoD)

**Week 9**

**Tu (10/17)** HoD

**Th (10/19)** HoD

**Week 10**

**Tu (10/24)** HoD intro to *Things Fall Apart* (TFA)

**Th (10/26)** TFA

**Week 11**

**Tu (10/31)** TFA

**Th (11/02)** TFA intro to *Purple Hibiscus* (PH) and Paper 2

**Week 12**

**Tu (11/07)** PH

**Th (11/09)** PH

**Week 13**

**Tu (11/14)** Paper 2 Due

**Th (11/16)** *Red: A Haida Manga*

**Thanksgiving Break 11/20-24 ~ No class**

**Week 14**

**Tu (11/27):** *Red*

**Th (11/29):** Brief Presentations

**Week 15**

**(12/04)** Brief Presentations

**(12/06)** Brief Presentations

**Final Examination: Tuesday, Dec 12 2:45-4:45**