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ENG 3009-007: Myth and Culture

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English 3009C-007 Myth and Culture  
TTH 12:30-1:45 CH337  
Dr. Susan Bazargan  
Office CH323  
Office Hours: TTH:2-3:30 TH:11-12:30 and by appointment  
Office phone: 581-6979 Home (Champaign): 355-5784  
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Required Texts:  
Coomaraswamy, Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists  
Easwaran, The Bhagavad-Gita  
Erdoes and Ortiz, American Indian Myths and Legends  
Leeming, The World of Myth  
Miller, Death of a Salesman  
Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks  
Rosenberg, World Mythology  
Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying  
Sanders, The Epic of Gilgamesh  
Sproul, Primal Myths

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 three "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:  
You will write two papers, each at least 5 pages long (typed, double-spaced); they may  
involve research. Topics will be assigned later.

III. Exams and Quizzes:  
The midterm exam will be held on 3/4. The date of the final will be announced later. Pop  
quizzes will be given occasionally. Quizzes cannot be made up.  
Grading Policy: First paper 15%; Second paper 15%; Midterm 25%; Final 25%; Quizzes  
10%; Participation 10%. D-: 60-64, D: 65-67, D+: 68-69; C-: 70-74; C: 75-77, C+: 78-79,  
B-: 80-84; B: 85-87; B+: 88-89; A-: 90-94; A: 95-97; A+: 98-100

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.

Class meetings:

1/14 Introduction to Myth and Culture (hand-out)

1/16 Sproul, "Introduction" (pp. 1-30)

1/21 BEGINNINGS: CREATION MYTHS
Sproul, pp. 80-86 (Egyptian); Rosenberg, pp. 149-158 (The Middle East, Enuma Elish)
Sproul, 135-142 (Zoroastrian)

1/23 Rosenberg, 401-407 (African, Yoruba), Rosenberg, 3-14 (Greek); Leeming, 36-39 (Hopi)

1/28 Erdoes and Ortiz, "The Good Twin and the Evil Twin" and "Old Man Coyote Makes the World"; Rosenberg, 465-476 "The Americas"

1/30 Sproul, 122-129 (Genesis); Sproul, 151-155 (Islam); Leeming 41-42 (Modern)

2/4 ENDINGS AND AFTERLIFE
Leeming: pp. 64-65; Rosenberg, "Osiris, Isis and Horus" pp. 159-168
Leeming, pp. 67-68; 68-69; 72-75 (Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Hopi)

2/6 Leeming: Apocalypse, pp. 76-82; 84-85; 88-89

2/11 In-class writing

2/13 No Class (I'll be away at a conference.)

2/18 LOVE
Rosenberg, "Demeter and Persephone" 14-20; Leeming, "Adonis and Aphrodite"
Rosenberg, "Aeneas and Dido"; Leeming, "Wanjiru" 281-283

2/20 Myths of love (hand-out)
FIRST PAPER DUE
2/25 HEROES/HEROINES and the COMMUNITY
Leeming 217-221, 221-224 ("Water Jar Boy"); Rosenberg, "Introducing Quetzalcoatl" pp. 492-497; "Gassire's Lute" in Rosenberg, 410-416

2/27 Erdoes and Ortiz, "Ordeals of the Hero" pp. 179-180, 193-209; Leeming, "Joan of Arc" 235-236

3/4: MIDTERM EXAM

3/6: Miller, Death of a Salesman

3/11 HINDUISM
Easwaran, The Bhagavad-Gita, pp. 1-45

3/13: Easwaran (continued)

SPRING BREAK

3/25 Introduction to TIBETAN BUDDHISM:
Coomaraswamy, Chapter V, Buddha 245-250, 259-276
Film: Little Buddha

3/27 Rinpoche, Chapter two, "Impermanence"; Chapter four: "The Nature of the Mind"

4/1 Rinpoche, Chapter six: "Evolution, Karma, and Rebirth"; Chapter nine: "The Spiritual Path"

4/3 SOME MAJOR MYTHS
Black Elk Speaks

4/8 Black Elk Speaks

4/10 "The Spirit of Crazy Horse" (film)

4/15 Rosenberg, "The Odyssey"

4/17 Rosenberg, "The Odyssey"

4/22 In-class writing (final draft is due in my mailbox on May 5)

4/24 Sanders, Gilgamesh

4/29 Gilgamesh

5/1 Review and Assessment