

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 3009G-010: Myth and Culture

Daiva Markelis
Eastern Illinois University

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30096-010

MYTH AND CULTURE

010
ENGLISH 3009G-~~005~~
Fall Semester 2005
W 6:00 – 8:30
Coleman Hall 3150
email: cfdmm@eiu.edu

Instructor: Dr. Daiva Markelis
Office: Coleman Hall 3375
Office Hours: M/W 12:00 – 2:00
F 10:00 – 11:00 and by appointment
Office phone: 581-5614
Home Phone: 348-9230

Purpose of the Course

The emphasis in this class will be on the persistence of myth. We will examine not only how similar stories manifest themselves in different cultures, but also how myths and their remnants are transformed over time to influence our ways of understanding the world today. In one section, for example, we will read Sophocles' Oedipus the King, then move on to Freud's interpretation of the myth in his formulation of the Oedipus Complex, then finish with a study of the film Minority Report. In our examination of myth, we will be paying special attention to the various ways that societies have created fantastic beings—monsters, ghouls--on which to displace their anxieties. By the end of the semester, I expect you to have a better understanding of how myths function in shaping communal and individual belief systems, including your own.

Books

The Epic of Gilgamesh
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Monsters by David Gilmore
The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Stanley Lombardo
Oedipus the King by Sophocles, translated by Robert Bagg

Requirements

1. Write two essays on various aspects of myth
2. Take six quizzes on the assigned readings
3. Take a midterm and a final exam
4. Give a 15-20 minute oral presentation with two other class members
5. Read the assigned material by the assigned date and participate in class discussions

NOTE: Because quizzes are short but frequent, there will be no make-ups.

Attendance

We need your input 100% of the time because absences disturb the work of the whole class. In addition, many of the ideas used in your papers will be generated in class discussions or in-class writing, which is why it is vital that you come to each class session. I realize, however, that emergencies do occur. The attendance policy for this class, based on a point system, should allow for these emergencies. You get 10 points for attending every class session. Fifteen multiplied by 10, the number of classes, equals 150 points.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to contact me or a fellow student to find out what you've missed.

Grade Breakdown		Course Grade	
6 quizzes, 25 points each	150 points	901-1000 points	A
Essay 1	150 points	801-900 points	B
Essay 2	200 points	701-800 points	C
Midterm	100 points	601-700 points	D
Final	150 points	0-600 points	E
Oral Presentation	100 points		
<u>Attendance 10 pts. per day</u>	<u>150 points</u>		
TOTAL	1000 points		

Evaluation of Essays

There will be particular criteria tailored to each assignment; we will discuss these in class. All final versions of written work must adhere to the conventions of Standard Written English, follow the format for papers outlined below, and have been carefully proofread.

Format for Papers

Type your assignments on standard-size paper. Double-space. NO extra spaces between paragraphs, please, and NO oversized fonts. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, type your name, your instructor's name, course, and date. In the upper right-hand corner of the following pages, type your last name/page number. Staple or paper-clip pages together.

Plagiarism

Here is the English Department policy on plagiarism:

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 the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in room 3110 of Coleman Hall, gives you the opportunity to talk with a tutor about your writing, especially if you are having problems beginning a paper or know that you are weak in certain areas.

"Dreams and Beasts are two keys by which we are to find out the secrets of our nature."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

CLASS SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|
| #1 | 08/24 | Introductions/In-class writing |
| #2 | 08/31 | Discuss <u>Monsters</u> , p. 1-22
Discuss <u>The Odyssey</u> , Books 1 and 5 |
| #3 | 09/07 | <u>Odyssey</u> , Books 8, 9, 10, and 11
<u>Monsters</u> , p. 23-46,
Quiz |
| #4 | 09/14 | <u>Odyssey</u> , Books 19, 21, 22, 23, and 24
Quiz |
| #5 | 09/21 | <u>Oedipus</u> (Read all) |
| #6 | 09/28 | Movie
Quiz |
| #7 | 10/05 | Paper #1 due
<u>Monsters</u> , 174-194 |
| #8 | 10/12 | Midterm
Discuss <u>Gilgamesh</u> |
| #9 | 10/19 | <u>Gilgamesh</u> |
| #10 | 10/26 | <u>Gilgamesh</u> , begin <u>Frankenstein</u>
Quiz |
| #11 | 11/02 | <u>Frankenstein</u>
Quiz |
| #12 | 11/09 | <u>Frankenstein</u>
Quiz |
| #13 | 11/16 | Movie |
| 11/19 to 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK | | |
| #14 | 11/30 | Oral presentations |
| #15 | 12/07 | Oral presentations
<u>Paper #2 due</u> |

NOTE: I may make minor changes to this syllabus in order to suit the needs of the class. Changes will always be announced in advance.