

Spring 1-15-2019

ENG 3099G-099: Myth and Culture Honors

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Engl 3099: Myth and Culture (Honors) /Spring Semester 2019

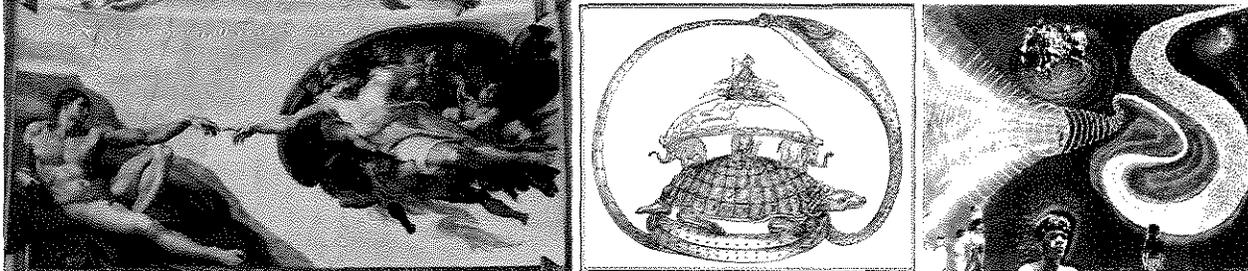
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**Office Hours: Tu/Th 11am to 12noon; Wed 2:30-3pm
or by appointment**



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*.

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

Sophocles. *Oedipus the King*

Other materials may be distributed in class or posted on D2L

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

Three Short Essays	30% (10% each)
Final Research-based Project	15%
Presentations	15%
Exams: Mid Term (10%) Final (15%)	25%
Participation*	15%

**Note: Participation encompasses many kinds of behavior. For one thing it means showing up. Showing up consists of being on time, attending the class itself, and being prepared for class by reading the assigned texts for each day and thoughtfully contributing to the class conversation. If you find it easy to share in class, participation may mean regulating the number of times you contribute; if you are more reserved then figuring out a way to contribute (through D2L perhaps) will also count. Please see Dr. Bredesen if you need clarification.*

Showing up also means getting a drink of water or going to the bathroom before or after class not disappearing in the middle of class for unspecified periods of time. Participation often includes in-class writing and different kinds of collaborative activities with other students.

Being mindful of what other classmates are saying and responding to their ideas as well as the instructor's also counts as participation. 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 have no more than one week to do so, and the make-up exam may differ from the one given during class.

For **Academic Accommodation for a documented disability** 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**. Contact number: 217-581-6696.

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.

If you find yourself experiencing depression, anxiety, or other concerns please consider making an appointment at the **Counseling Clinic**. Contact number: 217-581-3413.

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 (01/08) Introductions

Th (01/10): Creation stories: Guest Lecturer: Dr. Lee Patterson (History)

Week 2

Tu (01/15) Creation stories continued

Th (01/17) The Hero's Journey/ Gilgamesh

Weeks 3

Tu (01/22) Gilgamesh continued Guest Lecturer: Dr. Newton Key

Th (01/24) "Jason and the Argonauts"

Week 4

Tu (01/29) "Medea".
 Th (01/31) Continued discussion of "Jason" and "Medea" myths

Week 5

Tu (02/05) *Oedipus Rex*
 Th (02/07) *Oedipus Rex*

Week 6

Tu (02/12) *Minority Report*
 Th (02/14) *Minority Report*

Week 7

Tu (02/19) **Discussion**
 Th (02/21) Paper Due/Workshop

Week 8

Tu (02/26) Midterm
 Th (02/28) Revised Paper Due—Introduction to Final Research Project
 Intro to *Heart of Darkness (HoD)* —Introducing Power Word Assignment

Week 9

Tu (03/05) *HoD*
 Th (03/07) *HoD*

MARCH 11-15 Spring Break / No Classes**Week 10**

Tu (03/19) *HoD*
 Th (03/21) *HoD*

Week 11

Tu (03/26) *HoD*
 Th (03/28) *TFA* *Heart of Darkness* **Power Word Paper Due**

Week 12

Tu (04/02) *TFA*
 Th (04/04) *TFA* Intro to *Purple Hibiscus*

Week 13

Tu (04/09) *Purple Hibiscus*
 Th (04/11) *Purple Hibiscus*

Week 14

Tu (04/16) **Research Project Due**
 Th (04/18) Presentations

Week 15

Tu (04/23) Presentations
 Th (04/25) TBA

Final Examination: Wednesday, May 1 8am-10am