Syllabus

English 3009
Spring 2001

Christhilf
Office: CH 339H
Phone: 6285
Hours: TTh 3:15-4:45
W 9:00-10:00

Required Books with abbreviations:
Barbara Sproul, comp. Primal Myths. (PM)
Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz, eds. American Indian Myths and Legends. (AIM)
N. K. Sanders, trans. The Epic of Gilgamesh.
Lobsang Lhalungpa. The Life of Milarepa.
Mary Shelley. Frankenstein.
Aldous Huxley. Brave New World.

Course Purpose: The purpose of the course is to transmit knowledge of the beliefs of some of the world's peoples. These beliefs are expressed in their myths and legends, which will be read, discussed and analyzed in writing. The overall approach is that in their mythologies peoples, past and present, seek to answer questions that are basic to human life: Why are we here? Why is life pleasant—or painful? What is the best way to live? The way in which human beings answer such questions varies not only from people to people but also in different periods of history.

Jan. 9 Course Description and Introduction.
I. Native American and Mediterranean Mythologies.

Jan. 11 Primal Myths, 1-30.

Jan. 16 American Indian Myths, 14-15; 77-82; 88-93; 117-118; 355-56; 470-71.
Jan. 18 American Indian Myths, 5-8; 8-11; 11-13; 15-19; 442-45; 447-51; 457-62.

Jan. 25 The Epic of Gilgamesh.

Jan. 30 The Epic of Gilgamesh.
Feb. 1 The Epic of Gilgamesh.

Feb. 6 Homer's The Odyssey, Books I-III, V (in WM).
Feb. 8 Homer's The Odyssey, Books VI-X.

Feb. 13 Homer's The Odyssey, Books XVI-XIX.
Feb. 15 Homer's The Odyssey, Books XX-XXIII.

Feb. 20 Homer's The Odyssey, Book XXIV.
Feb. 22 Midterm Examination.
English 3009 Syllabus  
(continued)

II. Buddhist and Christian Mythologies.

Feb. 27  The Life of Milarepa, 7-35.
March 1  The Life of Milarepa, 36-74; and 89-107.
March 6  The Life of Milarepa, 108-45; 153-73.
March 8  Assign Course Paper.
March 12 through March 16. Spring Recess.
March 20 The Old Testament: Genesis, chaps. 1-3 (in WM).
March 27 Everyman (in WM, 1639-60). Course Paper due.
March 29 Everyman.

III. Modern Mythology.

April 3 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.
April 5 Shelley's Frankenstein.
April 10 Shelley's Frankenstein.
April 12 Shelley's Frankenstein. Optional Paper Revision due.
April 17 Aldous Huxley's Brave New World.
April 19 Huxley's Brave New World.
April 24 Huxley's Brave New World.
April 26 Huxley's Brave New World.

Final Exam.
Course Requirements: The final grade will be determined on the basis of three written assignments: a midterm exam, a final exam, and a paper. Exams will be essay-type; will be written in class; and will cover the readings in the course. The paper will explain a theme or character in one of the course readings. It should approach 1000 words, and be typed, double-space, in accordance with an acceptable manual of style, such as the MLA Handbook (which is available at the Booth Library Reference desk). Both the paper and the exams will be given a letter grade on the basis of the English Department's "Guidelines for Evaluating Themes at Eastern." The paper and the exams will each count one-third of the final grade, with the following exception. If a student wishes to revise his or her paper, both the original grade and the grade for the revision will be used to compute the final grade.

Absence from an exam or lateness in submitting a paper will result in a penalty, unless the student has a valid excuse from a physician. In the case of absence from an exam, the penalty will be reduction of the grade for make-up work by two letter grades; in the case of paper lateness, the penalty will be reduction of the grade by one letter for each class day that passes before the paper is submitted.

Reading quizzes may also be given, and would be used as an index of participation in the course. There will be no make-up quizzes. Students are expected to attend class, and are encouraged to take notes in class. If a student has a documented disability and wishes academic accommodations, he or she should contact the coordinator of the Office of Disability Services.

Statement concerning 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)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course.