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ENG 3009G-001: Myth and Culture

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ENGLISH 3009G.001: Myth and Culture

Course Description: Through primary readings of myths from selected cultural traditions, the course will examine relationships among mythical, historical, anthropological and scientific ways of understanding by using comparative analysis. Prerequisite: English 1002C, or 1092C, or the equivalent.

Course Format: Lecture and discussion, preferably much more the latter, depending on your willingness and preparation to contribute. Journal writing per the syllabus should provide ample opportunities to develop your ideas for class discussion.

Required Texts:

Course Requirements and Grading: Discussion (participation, reading quizzes as necessary)--15%; journal--20%; mid-term essay examination--10%; short essays, five (two 1-2 pp, three 2-3 pp) for a total of approximately 12 typewritten pages--35%; and a final essay examination--20%.

Journal: Throughout the term and on a near-daily basis (at least three times a week), you should develop 40-45 (handwritten, or 20-25 typed) pages in which you practice expressive and critical writing. Record responses to readings, however briefly; as a rough estimate, you should respond to one or two topics for each class; the syllabus suggests directions for query, and these should be regarded as assigned journal entries. Responses, of course, will vary; some may be brief and others should be in-depth and detailed in the effort to explore ideas and elaborate on associations. (The more of these latter sort, the better.)

Try, occasionally, responding to texts and issues both before and after class discussions; reflect on your own experience and explore its significance to the text, or the meaning of the text to your own experience. Generally, I shall expect you to work toward becoming "strong readers," those readers who pursue interpretation beyond the conventional responses that any given text seems to invite. Please, no diaries. Obviously, the journal is rough writing; I shall evaluate it as such.
General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, I shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high B from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll, and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course (15%); however, each two days is the equivalent of a week in the fifteen-week semester. Obviously, absences have a direct influence on your participation.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last few days of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, course and section number, and assignment number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Friday will be an F by the next Thursday. If difficulties arise, please see me.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own 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 immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

If I discover an act of plagiarism, I shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See The Blair Handbook (4th ed), pp. 241-244, for a further discussion of what constitutes plagiarism and how to integrate properly your material from sources.)

Students with Disabilities:

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.