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The purpose of this course is to read and discuss myths from a variety of cultures around the globe. I see myths as vehicles shaping human imagination, cognition, culture, and legacy. We'll examine similarities and differences among myths from various Western and non-Western cultures.

Course requirements:

1. Class attendance:
I have a strict attendance policy. If you have more than two unexcused absences during the semester, your grade for the semester will lose one-half point for each unexcused absence. If you are ill or have to leave campus because of a family emergency, please call my office and let me know.

2. Writing and Papers:
You will write 10-15 minutes in your journal at the end of each class period. You can jot down questions, provide a summary of material covered, or record your response to a text we've discussed. I may ask you to share some of your writings with your peers at the start of the next class. You will write two 4-5-page papers (typed, double-spaced). The first draft of the paper will be written in class. Using my comments and suggestions, you will revise, expand, and polish the paper at home. English 3009 is a "writing-intensive" course, so you can submit one of your essays to your electronic writing portfolio.

3. Exams:
Two hourly exams will be given on 10/22 and 12/12.

Grading Policy:
Each paper is worth 25% (50% total), the two exams 40%, class participation 10%

Conferences:
Please stop by 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.

Required texts:
Erdoes and Ortiz, *American Indian Myths and Legends*
Harris and Platzner, *Classical Mythology*
Kovacs, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
Rinpoche, *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*
Rosenberg, *World Mythology*
Scheub, *The African Storyteller*
Sproul, *Primal Myths*

Class Meetings:
8/27: Introduction to the course

8/29: Introduction to Myth: Sproul, 1-20, Harris and Platzner, pp. 34-44

The Near East and the Middle East:
9/3: Sproul, 80-86, Rosenberg, “Osiris, Isis, and Horus” (12-21)

9/5: Sproul, 91-92, Rosenberg, “The Enuma Elish” (6-11)


9/12: Sproul, “Zoroastrian Myths” (135-142)

9/17: Sproul, “Myths of Islam” (151-155)

9/19: In-class Writing

9/24: Discussion of papers. Film/Video.

Africa:


Ancient Greece:
10/8: Harris and Platzner, 6-8, 11-18, 23-25, 49-61
10/10: Harris, “The Great Goddess and the Goddesses” (84-104)
10/15: Harris (continued), Rosenberg, “Demeter and Persephone” (93-99)
10/17: Rosenberg, “Medea” (204-241)
10/22: **First Hourly Exam**
10/24: In-class writing

India:
10/31: Rinpoche, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
11/5: Rinpoche, Chapters 5, 6, 7

North America
11/12: **Second Paper is Due**

Three Epics:
11/14: *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Rosenberg, 26-56); bring Kovacs also.
11/19: *Gilgamesh* (continued). Homer, *The Odyssey* (Harris and Platzner, 342-375)
11/21: *The Odyssey* (continued, 375-394)
Thanksgiving Break
12/3: *The Odyssey* (394-420)
12/5: Rosenberg, *Beowulf* (381-416)
12/10: *Beowulf* (continued)
12/12: **Second Hourly Exam**