ENG 3009C-014-015: Myth and Culture

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Course requirements:
I. 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 or home and let me know.

II. Papers and Journal:
You will write three one-page (typed, single-spaced) papers and one final (at least 4 pages long) essay. Topics will be assigned. You need to keep a journal in which you're asked to write two entries (at least two pages per entry or 4 pages total) every week. Please date all the entries. In your journal, write a brief summary of the material you've been asked to read that week and record your questions and responses.

III. Exams and Quizzes:
The midterm exam will be held on 10/13; the date of the final will be announced later. Pop quizzes might be given occasionally. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Grading Policy: Short papers: 40%; long essay 15%; Midterm and quizzes 20%; Final 15%; Journal 10%

Conferences:
Please stop by my 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:
Coomaraswamy, Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists
DuBois, Souls of Black Folk
Kovacs, The Epic of Gilgamesh
Leeming, The World of Myth (WM)
Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks
Rosenberg, Folklore, Myths, and Legends (FML)
Rosenberg, World Mythology (WM)
Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying
Sproul, Primal Myths
Willis, World Mythology.

Class Meetings:

I. Myth and Culture: Some Definitions

8/25: Introduction to the course
8/27: Definitions of Myth and Culture; Willis, pp. 10-16; Rosenberg, FML, pp. xxi-xxxiv

II: Beginnings: Creation Myths

9/1: Willis, pp. 18-19; 36-41, Sproul, pp. 80-86 (Egyptian)
9/3: Willis, "The Middle East" pp. 56-57, 61-62; Rosenberg, WM, pp. 149-158 (The Middle East, "The Enuma Elish")

9/8: Willis, p. 67; Sproul, 135-142 (Zoroastrian); Rosenberg, 3-14 (Greek). Willis, pp. 124-129
9/10: Turn in Journals
Willis, pp. 220-233 (North America); Leeming, WM, 36-39 (Hopis),

9/15: Willis, "Africa" pp. 264-277; Rosenberg, WM, 401-407 (African, Yoruba)
9/17: Sproul, 122-129 (Genesis); Sproul, 151-155 (Islam); Leeming, WM, 41-42 (Modern)

III: The Self and the Community

9/22: One-page paper is due.
Leeming, WM, pp. 217-221, 221-224 ("The Water Jar Boy"); Leeming, "Antigone"

9/29: Kovacs, The Epic of Gilgamesh (You can also refer to Rosenberg, WM, "Gilgamesh")
10/1: Gilgamesh (continued); Turn in Journals
10/6: Willis, "The Trojan War" pp. 157-161; Rosenberg, WM, "The Odyssey"
10/8: "The Odyssey" and Review

10/13: Midterm exam
10/15: Rosenberg, FML, "The Tragedy of Sohrab" 94-106, 131-157

10/20: Second one-page paper due
Rosenberg, FML, "Savitri" 373-394
10/22: Turn in journals
Coomaraswamy, The Mahabharata, 118-216

10/27: The Mahabharata (continued)
10/29: The Mahabharata (cont.)

IV: Cycles of Life and Death

11/3: Willis, p. 142; Rosenberg, WM, "Demeter and Persephone" 14-20; Willis, pp. 42-45. Rosenberg, "Osiris, Isis, and Horus" pp. 159-168
11/5: Willis, pp. 86-87; Coomaraswamy, Chapter V, Buddha 245-250, 259-276

11/10: Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying (Chapters One and Two)
11/12: Turn in Journals
Third one-page paper is due
Rinpoche, Chapters Four, Five, Six

Myth and Culture: Some modern versions in the U.S.

11/17: Niehardt, Black Elk Speaks
11/19: Niehardt (continued)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/1: "The Spirit of Crazy Horse" (film)
12/3 Dubois, The Souls of Black Folk, pp. xi-xlii, 43-53

12/8: Dubois, 54-78, 96-108, 162-186
Turn in Journal
12/10: Dubois, 210-225, 226-233, 264-278

Exam Week:
12/14: Final paper due (in my mailbox)
Final exam date will be announced.