



ENGL 2230

Division: Humanities

Department: English

Course: ENGL 2230

Title: Classic Myths and Folk Tales

Catalog Description:

This course explores myths and folktales of the world with an emphasis on Greco-Roman myths and tales. The course focuses on application of the myths to art, literature, and Western culture in general.

General Education Requirements: Humanities

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: N/A

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

This course is basic to cultural literacy in Western humanities since allusions to Greco-Roman mythology, in particular, abound in Western academic and popular subjects. The course is designed to accommodate both those who have no background in the subject and those who have had considerable exposure. The course is recommended for all Humanities, Fine Arts, and Elementary Education majors at Snow College.

Similar courses in the Utah System of Higher Education include ENGL 2300 at Southern Utah University, ENGL 2170 at Utah Valley State College, and ENGL 2340 at Dixie State College.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- recognize allusions to mythic deities and heroes and their stories in art and literature
- be able to name and describe the attributes of the major Greek deities
- demonstrate knowledge of geography of the Eastern Mediterranean as it relates to Greek myth and legend
- be able to draw comparisons between myths and folktales from different cultures
- gain an awareness of the universal and timeless aspects of human experience as treated in myth and folktale
- gain an awareness of how myths are constantly being transformed in contemporary language, art, and

ideas.

Content:

This course will include:

- theories of the origins, nature, and purposes of myth and folktale
- anthropomorphism and Greek humanism
- myths of creation
- myths of death and rebirth
- cultural heroes and hero sagas
- nature and deeds of the trickster-hero
- presence of classical myth in modern culture and academics
- epic poetry based on myth (Homer's *Illiad*).

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

In addition to the daily textbook assignments, which will be evaluated by student response in quizzes and discussions, the students will read and apply their knowledge of myth to various poems, excerpts from classical drama, and allusions in modern literature. The students will read Homer's *Illiad* with an eye to identifying and appreciating the conventions of epic poetry.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

In every exam, students will be asked to retell selected stories from the course and will be graded on the accuracy, completeness, and narrative quality of the telling. Students who opt to do the critical paper for their course project will select a piece of fiction, poetry, or drama based on a myth or folktale and examine how the author adapts the myth to his particular purposes and time.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students will demonstrate on quizzes, exams, and in class discussions an understanding of the geography of the Aegean Sea and surrounding land forms and how the physical constraints and natural resources of the area produced the cultures which flourished there. They will explain in writing the effects of the Greek view of life and death on the character of the myth hero.

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

Students will identify differences between their values and the values of the culture being studied as evidenced in that culture's myths and folktales. They will explore the ambivalent attitude about war held by Homer's characters and respond in the final essay to the question "In what ways is Homer's *Illiad* simultaneously a great war novel and a great antiwar novel?"

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students will analyze many examples of Greco-Roman myth as it has been interpreted by artists through the ages via slides of that art. They will identify the myth subject or characters and compare the artist's treatment of the subject to the basic myth.

Key Performance Indicators:

- weekly quizzes: 100 pts
- four major exams: 400 pts
- final exam: 200 pts
- course project: 50 pts.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- Alexander Eliot, *The Universal Myths*, current edition, New York: Penguin.
- Donna Rosenburg and Sorelle Baker, *Mythology and You*, current edition, Lincolnwood, IL: NTC.
- Homer, *The Illiad*, current edition, Robert Fitzgerald, New York: Anchor/Doubleday.

Optimum Class Size: 30

Maximum Class Size: 60

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Ron Lamb, MS, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the English Department:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)