



ENGL 2230 (formerly 1500)

Division: Humanities

Department: English

Course: ENGL 2230 (formerly 1500)

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 English, Fine Arts, and Elementary Education majors at Snow College.

Similar courses in the Utah System of Higher Education are taught at Southern Utah University, Utah Valley University, and Dixie State University.

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 myths and folktales
- study of concepts of anthropomorphism and Greek humanism
- myths of creation
- myths of death and rebirth
- attributes and roles of major Greek and Norse gods
- cultural heroes and hero sagas
- nature and deeds of the trickster-hero
- presence of classical myth in popular culture and academics
- epic poetry based on myth (Homer's *Illiad*).

General Education Outcomes:

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

In every exam, students are asked to respond in full sentences. Students are coached on techniques for definition and paragraph responses. Student also retell selected stories from the course and are graded on the accuracy, completeness, and narrative quality of the telling. Specific instruction is given on narrative technique, and responses from current students are used as examples. 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. Throughout the semester examples of classical and contemporary adaptations of myth are given as models for this paper. Students will receive instructor comments on written assignments to help them improve writing skills.

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

Through quizzes, exams, and course projects with instructor feedback, students will demonstrate the ability to identify and assess the use of myth elements as they occur in art, drama, and poetry. Emphasis will be on the artistic and literary interpretation of the mythic material.

Key Performance Indicators:

Point values are approximate.

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

- Alexander Eliot, *The Universal Myths*, current edition, New York: Penguin.
- Donna Rosenberg 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:

Jannette Anderson, MA, Associate 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)