Course Description and Purpose

This course explores the sacred narratives and beliefs of ancient (B.C.) Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Mediterranean cultures, with emphasis on the nature and function of myth and its place in religious development.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- trace the historical trajectory of mythic development from Mesopotamia throughout the Mediterranean region;
- describe key texts of ancient mythologies;
- discuss the relationship of mythology, narrative, and religion;
- recognize and analyze the mythic pattern of the hero's journey; and
- critically read mythology with respect for its role in culture.

Course Content

- Week 1-- Introduction to Myth
  
  Watch: Lesson 1 PP
  
  Watch: Joseph Campbell on Poetry/Metaphor vs. Prose
Lesson 1 Discussion question
Quiz #1

• Week 2 -- Sumer
  Watch Lesson 2 PP
  Watch: The Ancient Middle East
  Watch: Joseph Campbell on the first city-states
  Lesson 2 discussion question
  Quiz #2

• Week 3 – Gilgamesh
  Watch Lesson 3 PP
  Watch video: Gilgamesh
  Lesson 3: discussion question
  Quiz #3

• Week 4 – Post-Sumer
  Watch Lesson 4 PP
  Lesson 4 discussion question
  Quiz #4

• Week 5 – The Hero
  Watch Lesson 5 PP
  Lesson 5 Discussion Question
  Quiz 5

• Week 6 -- Akkadia, Assyria, Babylon
  Watch Lesson 6 PP
  Lesson 6 Discussion Question
  Quiz #6

• Week 7 – The Enuma Elish
  Watch Lesson 7 PP
  Mid-term Exam  Oct 7
  Lesson 7 Discussion Question

• Week 8 -- Egypt
  Watch Lesson 8 PP
  Lesson 8 Discussion Question
  Quiz #8
• Week 9 – the Hebrews
  Watch Lesson 9 PP
  Watch video: *The Torah*
  Quiz #9

• Week 10 -- Persia
  Watch Lesson 10 PP
  Watch video: *Joseph Campbell on Jesus*
  Quiz #10

• Week 11 – The Goddess
  Watch Lesson 11 PP
  Lesson 11 discussion question
  Quiz #11

• Week 12 -- Greece
  Watch Lesson 12 PP
  Watch Video: Greece
  Quiz #12
  Research Paper due Nov 13

• Week 13 -- Homer
  Watch Lesson 13 PP
  Quiz #13

• Week 14 – Rome and Beyond
  Watch Lesson 14 PP
  Watch: *Joseph Campbell on the Story of Indra*
  Final Exam  Dec 2