# REL 3325

# Religions of Classical Mythology

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Spring Term 2027

## Professor Information

Ruben Garrote

**Roles:** Primary Instructor

**Email:** garroter@fiu.edu

**Phone:** (305) 348 1620

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Office Location:** DM 247

**Department or Academic Unit:** Department of Religious Studies

## Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

## Course Description

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.

## Textbook and Course Materials

**A Short History of Myth**

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** karen Armstrong

**Publisher:** Canongate

**Publication Date:** 2022

**Copyright Date:** 2022

**ISBN 10:** 1782118909

**ISBN 13:** 978-1782118909

**Chapters/Pages:** 176

**Thou Art That**

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** Joseph Campbell

**Publisher:** New World Library

**Publication Date:** 2001

**Copyright Date:** 2001

**ISBN 10:** 1577312024

**ISBN 13:** 978-1577312024

**Chapters/Pages:** 136

**Panther Book Pack**

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop.

## Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- 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
- Critically read mythology with respect for its role in the culture

## Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

**Students are expected to:**

- **review the getting started** page located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course at least **2 times** per week;

- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond** to **emails** within 2 **days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

# Assignments & Assessments

## Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

### Discussion Forum Expectations:

**Two posts are required for every assigned topic.** Original postings should be completed by Friday at 11:59 PM and response postings must be completed by Sunday at 11:59 PM. This ensures that there are enough original postings for other students to respond to during the week.

You are expected to read all assigned material and be prepared to discuss it intelligently in the Discussion Forum, the main mode of interaction for the course. Anyone may begin a discussion at any time but you are also expected to comment on the week's course material.

Try to engage each other in direct conversation. Say what you

think! Post on, things that surprised you, things that annoy you, things you thought were cool. Imagine we're all in class interacting and sharing our ideas. Pick an idea, motif, story, etc., that struck you as particularly interesting and begin a conversation. What we want are conversations that take us beyond the assigned material. You will be graded on your participation and on the quality of your postings. A key factor in your grade will be the extent to which your posts are interesting, original, in-depth, insightful--how much they actually add to the conversation. Another factor is frequency; get on the Forum regularly. Show some signs of life! I will also be looking at how much you engage your classmates, rather than just putting something up there to fill the hole. And please--don't even bother posting, "I liked this," or "I found this interesting," and such--that kind of post will reduce your grade, not help it. Try to make each post at least 100 meaningful words.

## Quizzes

There are 14 quizzes throughout the semester. See the course calendar for the availability dates. The 24-hour availability period for each quiz starts at 12:00 am and ends at 11:55 pm. Each student has one attempt at each quiz. There will be 10 questions, worth 10 points each. The quiz will be different for each student. To take a quiz, click on "Quizzes" under "Course Menu." Once you open the quiz, you will have ten (20) minutes to save all the answers and submit it.

The quizzes will reflect the lectures AND the assigned reading. Please study all course material prior to the quizzes and be prepared.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

## Term Paper

Throughout the course, we will note that various key themes, symbols, characteristics, and connections occur across all, or most, of the mythologies we have studied. To quote Joseph Campbell, “Every one of the major Old Testament mythological themes has been found by our modern scholars in the earlier Sumero-Babylonian complex.” [*Thou Art That*, Joseph Campbell Foundation, San Anselmo, CA, 2001, 25.]

**Assignment:**

> Part 1. List all the recurring themes, symbols, metaphors, and patterns you have detected throughout the mythologies discussed in class (whether or not the lessons actually addressed them specifically.)
>
> Part 2. Which do you think are most significant? Why? What do you think they are metaphorically conveying? Why would they recur in so many myths?
>
> Part 3. What does Joseph Campbell have to say about the phenomenon of recurrent mythological themes? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? (You can dispute his position if you

wish. Lots of people have.)

**Note:** This assignment is for an analytical paper, not just a few short answers. I will be looking for

- Your recognition of the patterns in the myths we have covered
- Your understanding of the basic myth theory we have discussed and that is addressed by Campbell
- Your response, in detail, to Campbell's claims and conclusions. Do you agree that "every one of the major Old Testament mythological themes has been found" in these Mesopotamian myths? Why or why not?
- Your own analytical ability and original insights
- Correct formatting, citations and annotations, according to a recognized standard (Chicago, MLA, etc.)

Your overall paper should be at least 5 pages or more long, with no more than 1.5 spacing. I will be on the lookout for filler and overgenerous margins and font size. I will be even more on the lookout for plagiarism.

I have no problem with your going online for your research. I would caution you, however, to carefully cite any website you have used. Be sure to consult reputable sites and sources; there are many sites addressing these topics that are unreliable and/or flat wrong.

# Exams

Exams are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of the materials covered in lectures and the assigned texts. The midterm (Exam 1) will cover the first half of the course; the final (Exam 2) covers only the second half. You have only 1 attempt to take each exam. Exams will be available for a 1 week period from 12:01 am to 11:55 pm. There will be one hundred (100) questions on each exam. Once you open the exam, you will have 2 hours to complete and submit the exam. Once the time expires, you cannot save any more answers but only can submit it. Failure to take the exam in the allotted time period will result in a zero (0).

Exam questions will be taken from the quizzes, but since there are more questions in the database than the number of questions on the exam, you will probably get different questions than you did on the quizzes. Multiple choice questions are randomized across students so no two students will have the same questions.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services .

Assessments will be graded immediately with student submission and answers hidden until after the assessment due date

# Grading

**Course Grades Distribution Table**

| Course Requirements | Number of Items | Weight |
|---|---|---|
| Quizzes | 11 | 25% |
| Exams | 2 | 25% |
| Discussion | 13 | 25% |
| Term Paper | 1 | 25% |
| **Total** | **27** | **100%** |

**Letter Grade Distribution Table**

| Letter Grade | Sample Range % |
|---|---|
| A | 95 to 100 |
| A- | 90 to 94 |
| B+ | 87 to 89 |
| B | 83 to 86 |
| B- | 80 to 82 |
| C+ | 77 to 79 |

| Letter Grade | Sample Range % |
|---|---|
| C | 70 to 76 |
| D | 60 to 69 |
| F | 0 to 59 |

## Proctored Exams

**Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.**

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

## Schedule of Topics

### Lesson 1: Introduction to the Study of Myth

### Lesson 2: Myth and Religion in Ancient Sumer

### Lesson 3: The Myth of Gilgamesh

### Lesson 4: Sumer and Beyond

### Lesson 5: The Hero's Journey

### Lesson 6: The Myths of Assyria, Akkadia, and

**Babylon**

**Lesson 7: The Enuma Elish**

**Lesson 8: Egypt**

**Lesson 9: Mythology of the First Jews**

**Lesson 10: Persia**

**Lesson 11: The Goddess**

**Lesson 12: Greece**

**Lesson 13: Homer**

**Lesson 15: Rome and Beyond**

## Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within **X days.**

## Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies, such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

## Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class

session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the Zoom Student Tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

- Access the Zoom Test Meeting Room to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the FIU Canvas Help Team. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.