

GENERAL INFORMATION

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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.

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 area;
- Describe some of the 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.

PROFESSOR BIOGRAPHY

Rubén Garrote is an Honors College alumnus and a graduate of FIU's Department of Religious Studies. He has been teaching for the department for the past seven years, and has received several awards for teaching and academic excellence. He is also a Fellow of the Honors College.

TEXTBOOK

You are not required to use any particular edition of these books. For the *Odyssey* I have recommended an accessible translation; for the Campbell, all versions will be alike except for pagination. Buy used if you like.

The Odyssey,

[Robert Fagles,](#)

Penguin Classics, New Ed edition, 1999.

ISBN-10: 0140268863

ISBN-13: 978-0140268867

The Hero with a Thousand Faces,

[Joseph Campbell,](#)

Bollingen, Reprint Edition, 1972.

ISBN-10: 0691017840

ISBN-13: 978-0691017846

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course. For more information about prerequisites, [click here](#).

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Discussion Board: The discussion board is open to everyone, and everyone is encouraged to go there to discuss topics arising from the course. Note that some participation is expected as part of your final grade.

Technical Problems: Generally, I cannot solve technical problems with the content or settings of the course and have to refer them to FIU Online. Your best bet is to contact them first (numbers are there when you sign in to Online). If you can't resolve the problem, email me and I will get it fixed. Be patient!

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weights
Exam 1 (Midterm)	20%
Exam 2 (Final)	20%

Paper	10%
Discussion Forum / Participation	10%
12 Quizzes	40%
TOTAL	100%

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
A	93 +	B-	80 - 82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 - 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 - 72	F	< 60

Note: This online section may require an on-campus midterm and/or final exam.

QUIZZES

There are 12 quizzes throughout the semester. **NB: There is no quiz 7.** See the course calendar for the availability dates. The availability period for each quiz starts from 12:00 am and ends 11:59 pm. Each student has one attempt at quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10 points. There will be 10 questions. There are more questions in each quiz database than the 10 that appear. To take a quiz, click on "Assessments" under "Course Tools." Once you open the quiz, you will have ten (10) minutes to **save** all the answers and submit it. (Remember not to touch the computer Back button within Blackboard —use the arrow to scroll backward.)

Please study all course material relevant to the quizzes and be prepared prior taking the quizzes. You need to do the quizzes and exams by yourself. Any interaction of any form with others will constitute cheating, and may have serious repercussions.

The dates for the quizzes are given well ahead of time. You are responsible for making sure you are able to take the quizzes. Do so early, so that if you encounter technical problems, find yourself out of town, etc., you do not miss the quizzes. Once the quizzes close **THEY WILL NOT BE REOPENED!**

EXAMS

Exams are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of the materials covered in lectures and the assigned texts for a group of lessons. The midterm (Exam 1) will cover the first half of the course, the final (Exam 2) the second half only. You have only 1 attempt to take each exam. Exams will be available for a 24 hour period from 12:01 am to 11:59 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 may get the different questions that you did on the quizzes. Multiple choice questions are randomized across students so no two students will have the same questions.

The dates for the exams are given well ahead of time. You are responsible for making sure you are able to take the exams. Do so early, so that if you encounter technical problems, find yourself out of town, etc., you do not miss the exams. Once the exams close **THEY WILL NOT BE REOPENED!**

PAPER

The paper is intended to allow you to integrate the material and apply it in a creative way. The assignment entails choosing a hero or heroine from any myth you have read, heard, or watched and write an analysis of his or her story according to the stages in Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with A Thousand Faces*. Your choice need not be limited to classical myths. There are plenty of examples of heroes in contemporary literature and film. Just to provide some rather obvious examples (you are not limited to these, and are in fact encouraged to identify others), there are Frodo Baggins from *Lord of the Rings* –either the books or the films – and Luke Skywalker from *Star War*. A less obvious example would be Michael Corleone from *The Godfather* films.

Obviously, you will have to have read Campbell's book, so I recommend you begin to do so right away and read as we move along with the course (although the book is not assigned till about half-way through the semester). The paper length should be 5-7 double-spaced pages, size 12, Times New Roman font. Remember to cite all works consulted and provide a bibliography if needed.

You will submit the papers electronically to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) through the course website.

DISCUSSION FORUM / PARTICIPATION

During the course of the semester, each student should go onto the Discussion Forum and participate in the conversations taking place there. All students are expected to contribute on topics related to the course material. This is a good place to ask additional questions, share observations, and/or point out interesting materials you have found. Ten percent of your final grade will reflect the extent to which you participated on the discussion board.

I will be reviewing the forums Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and sporadically at other times during the week.

STUDENT HOMEPAGE

Every student should create his/her own student homepage using the course's Discussion Forum, which can be found on course's left navigation menu. For help on how to use the HTML Creator to develop a Student Homepage, [click here](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Online Learning 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 is compatible with Blackboard (<http://www.webct.com/tuneup>) and that it meets the minimum hardware requirements (http://online.fiu.edu/future_whats_required.html)

EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE

This is a fully online course, meaning that all course work (100%) will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in fully online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, fully online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Fully online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the professor and your fellow students; to do assignments; to meet deadlines; and in many classes, to work in virtual groups. In some fully online courses, you may be required to come to campus to take midterms and exams, but in most, you will take your tests online.

Tips for Success in your online course, [click here](#).

Online Etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE CALENDAR

Dates	Topic	Quizzes/ Assignments
Week 1 1/8	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write your bio on the "Student Bio" topic area of Discussion Forum 	Student Bio
	Lesson 1: Introduction to Study of Myth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 1 PowerPoint View film, "The Ancient Middle East" 	Quiz #1 Available 1/8-1/12
Week 2 1/15	Lesson 2: Myth and Religion in Ancient Sumer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 2 PowerPoint View film, "Mesopotamia: Development of Written Language" 	Quiz #2 Available 1/15-1/19
Week 3 1/22	Lesson 3: The Myth of Gilgamesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 3 PowerPoint Readings: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth	Quiz #3 Available 1/22-1/26
Week 4 1/29	Lesson 4: Sumer and Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 4 PowerPoint 	Quiz #4 Available 1/29-2/2
Week 5 2/5	Lesson 5: The Hero's Journey	Quiz #5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 5 PowerPoint Reading: Campbell, <i>Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> 	Available 2/5-2/9
Week 6 2/12	Lesson 6: The Myths of Assyria, Akkadia, and Babylon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 6 PowerPoint 	Quiz #6 Available 2/12-2/16
Week 7 2/19	Lesson 7: The Enuma Elish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 7 PowerPoint Reading: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth 	EXAM 1 (Midterm) Available 2/19-2/23
Week 8 2/26	Lesson 8: Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 8 PowerPoint View films: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Mystic Lands: Egypt Cycle of Life" "Reform at All Costs: Akhenaton" Read: The Bible, Genesis and Exodus 	Quiz #8 Available 2/26-2/30
Week 9 3/5	Lesson 9 : Mythology of the First Jews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 9 PowerPoint View film, "The Torah" 	Quiz #9 Available 3/5-3/9
Week 10 3/12	SPRING BREAK	
Week 11 3/19	Lesson 10: Persia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 10 PowerPoint 	Quiz #10 Available 3/19-3/23

Week 12 3/26	Lesson 11: The Goddess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 11 PowerPoint 	Quiz #11 Available 3/26-3/30
Week 13 4/2	Lesson 12: Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 12 PowerPoint 	Quiz #12 Available 4/2-4/6 PAPER Monday, Apr. 8, by 11:59 pm
Week 14 4/9	Lesson 13: Homer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 13 PowerPoint Read: Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> View film, "Great Books: Homer's Odyssey" 	Quiz #13 Available 4/9-4/13
Week 15 4/16	Lesson 14: Rome and Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View Lesson 14 PowerPoint 	No Quiz
Week 16 4/23	Final Exam Week	EXAM 2 (Final) Available 4/ 23-4/27