

## 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 taught for the department for the past six years, receiving several awards for teaching and academic excellence. He is also a Fellow of the Honors College, where he has taught Honors seminars at all levels. Garrote's interests in the history of religion are varied, ranging from ancient and medieval Christian heresies and Grail romances to fin-de-siècle Western occultism, utopianism and Tradition. He is particularly interested in the intersection between religion and politics.

## MAJOR & CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES TARGETED

At this time, the professor has not requested the insertion of any information into this section. Please contact the professor directly if you have any questions.

## 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: 0-140-26886-3

*The Hero with a Thousand Faces*,  
[Joseph Campbell](#),  
Bollingen, Reprint Edition, 1972.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

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

## COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

**E-mail:** Contact me via my email at [garroter@fiu.edu](mailto:garroter@fiu.edu). This is **IMPORTANT!**

**Discussion Board:** This is **NOT** the appropriate way to communicate with me about course housekeeping or problems! Use my email (above).

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	20%
Exam 2	20%
Paper	10%
Discussion Forum Participation	10%
12 Quizzes	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range	Letter Grade	Range
A	above 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.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a college, we care about and enforce the Policies and Procedures as they are important to the quality of the education we are providing to you. Details on FIU Policies can be found at:

[http://online.fiu.edu/wct\\_files/Policy/Policies\\_Requirements.html](http://online.fiu.edu/wct_files/Policy/Policies_Requirements.html)

## FIU LIBRARY SUPPORT

The FIU library provides a number of services to distance learning students. For example:

- Students can request a chat session in Blackboard for an explanation on how to access library resources.
- Students can request detailed instructions on how to access library resources.
- One-on-One assistance from the Distance Learning Librarian.

Don't struggle through your library research alone! Help is available. For further information, contact Sarah Hammill, Distance Learning Librarian, via email at [hammills@fiu.edu](mailto:hammills@fiu.edu) or call 305-919-5604.

You can visit the FIU Library at: <http://library.fiu.edu/>

## QUIZZES

There are 9 quizzes throughout the semester. **NB: There is no quiz 7 or 12.** See the course calendar for the availability dates. The availability period for each quiz starts from 12:00 am and ends 11:55 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 "Quizzes" under "Course Menu." 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 CE6—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.

## 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 11:55 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 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.

## 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 are to submit the papers electronically to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) through this website.

## SERVER MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

In an effort to provide online/hybrid students with reliable and secure access to the online learning technology resources, FIU Online has standard maintenance periods to perform scheduled maintenance and system upgrades. FIU Online courses will be unavailable during the established maintenance schedule. System maintenance is performed weekly between the hours of 11:59 PM on Friday night through 5:00 AM on Saturday morning. We thank you for your patience and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

## 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](#).

## 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.

## 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 Jun 22	<b>Getting Started</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See the Getting Started page in the Course Content of Blackboard CE6.</li></ul>	Write your bio on the "Student Bio" topic

	<p><b>Lesson 1: Introduction to Study of Myth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 1 PowerPoint</li> <li>• View film: “The Ancient Middle East”</li> </ul>	<p>Forum</p> <p><b>Quiz #1</b> Available</p> <p>6/22-6/28</p>
	<p><b>Lesson 2: Myth and Religion in Ancient Sumer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 2 PowerPoint</li> <li>• View film: “Mesopotamia: Development of Written Language”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #2</b> Available</p> <p>6/22-6/28</p>
Week 2 Jun 29	<p><b>Lesson 3: The Myth of Gilgamesh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 3 PowerPoint</li> <li>• Reading DUE: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #3</b> Available</p> <p>6/29-7/5</p>
	<p><b>Lesson 4: Sumer and Beyond</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 4 PowerPoint</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #4</b> Available</p> <p>6/29-7/5</p>
Week 3 Jul 6	<p><b>Lesson 5: The Hero's Journey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 5 PowerPoint</li> <li>• Reading DUE: Campbell, <i>Hero with a Thousand Faces</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #5</b> Available</p> <p>7/6-7/12</p>
	<p><b>Lesson 6: The Myths of Assyria, Akkadia, and Babylon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 6 PowerPoint</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #6</b> Available</p> <p>7/6-7/12</p>

	<p><b>Lesson 7: The Enuma Elish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 7 PowerPoint</li> <li>• Reading DUE: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM 1:</b> Available</p> <p>7/13-7/19</p>
<p>Week 4 Jul 13</p>	<p><b>Lesson 8: Egypt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 8 PowerPoint</li> <li>• View films: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Mystic Lands: Egypt Cycle of Life"</li> <li>2. "Reform at All Costs: Akhenaton"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reading DUE: The Bible, Genesis and Exodus</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #8</b> Available</p> <p>7/13-7/19</p>
<p>Week 5 Jul 20</p>	<p><b>Lesson 9 : Mythology of the First Jews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 9 PowerPoint</li> <li>• View film: "The Torah"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #9</b> Available</p> <p>7/20-7/26</p>
	<p><b>Lesson 10: Persia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 10 PowerPoint</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #10</b> Available</p> <p>7/20-7/26</p>
<p>Week 6 Jul 27</p>	<p><b>Lesson 11: The Goddess</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 11 PowerPoint</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #11</b> Available</p> <p>7/27-7/31</p>
	<p><b>Lesson 12: Greece and Homer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Lesson 12 PowerPoint</li> <li>• View Lesson 13 PowerPoint</li> <li>• Reading DUE: Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i></li> <li>• View film, "Great Books: Homer's Odyssey"</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM 2</b> Available</p> <p>7/27-7/31</p> <p><b>PAPER</b> Due Friday, July 31, at 11:59 PM</p>

## 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](http://online.fiu.edu/future_whats_required.html))

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