

REL3325: Religions of Classical Mythology

Professor Information

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Course Description

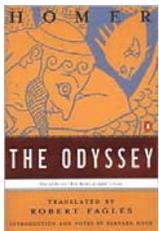
This course explores the sacred narratives and beliefs of ancient (B.C.) Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Mediterranean cultures, with emphasis on the nature and function of myth and its place in religious development.

Course Objectives

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.

Textbooks



The Odyssey

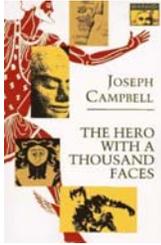
Robert Fagles

Penguin Classics, New Ed edition, 1999.

ISBN 10: 0140268863

ISBN 13:978-0140268867

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).



The Hero with a Thousand Faces

Joseph Campbell

Bollingen, Reprint Edition, 1972.

ISBN 10: 0691017840

ISBN 13: 978-0691017846

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, meaning that all course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, 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.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar

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

Online Etiquette, [click here](#).

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 or call 305-919-5604.

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

Course Communication

E-mail: Contact me via my email at 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!

For more information on professional writing and technical communication [click here](#).

Discussion Forums

Ten percent (10%) of your final grade will reflect the extent to which you participated on the discussion board.

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: You are expected to read all assigned material and be prepared to discuss it intelligently in the Discussion Forum.

As this is a fully online class, the Discussion Forum is the main mode of interaction for the course. You are therefore expected to discuss the read or watched material on the Discussion Forum. Anyone may begin a discussion at any time on the topic assigned for the week (see below) and based on the preceding lectures or notes.

You should post a minimum of twice per week, **beginning with Week 1**, to demonstrate comprehension of the course readings and lecture materials. One posting per week should be original (you derive the discussion topic based on the week's materials) and the second should be in response to at least one other posting (a students' or the professors').

Original postings should be completed by Friday/11:59PM and response postings must be completed by Sunday/11:59PM. This ensures that there are enough original postings for other students to respond to during the week.

Postings should be a minimum of 100 words.

Mere postings of "I liked X" or "I was surprised by Y", while of course welcomed, are not what I'm looking for. Pick an idea, motif, story, etc., that struck as particularly interesting and begin a conversation. What we want are conversations that take us beyond the assigned material.

First and last rule of the Discussion Forum: Always be respectful.

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.

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](#).

Please note 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](#).

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 will submit the papers electronically to Turnitin through the course website. Review the detailed [Turnitin Instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

Grading

Course Requirements	Weights
Exam 1 (Midterm)	20%
Exam 2 (Final)	20%
Paper	10%
Discussion Forum / Participation	10%
12 Quizzes	40%
TOTAL	100%

Course Calendar

Dates	Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Week 1 <i>June 19</i>	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See the Getting Started page in the Course Content of Blackboard CE6. Lesson 1: Introduction to Study of Myth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 1 PowerPoint ○ View film: “The Ancient Middle East” 	Write your bio on the "Student Bio" topic area of Discussion Forum Quiz #1 <i>Available 6/19-6/25</i>
	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” 	
Week 2 <i>June 26</i>	Lesson 3: The Myth of Gilgamesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 3 PowerPoint ○ Reading DUE: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth 	Quiz #3 <i>Available 6/26-7/2</i>
	Lesson 4: Sumer and Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 4 PowerPoint 	Quiz #4 <i>Available 6/26-7/2</i>
Week 3 <i>July 3</i>	Lesson 5: The Hero's Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 5 PowerPoint ○ Reading DUE: Campbell, <i>Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> 	Quiz #5 <i>Available 7/3-7/9</i>
	Lesson 6: The Myths of Assyria, Akkadia, and Babylon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 6 PowerPoint 	Quiz #6 <i>Available 7/3-7/9</i>
	Lesson 7: The Enuma Elish	EXAM 1:

Dates	Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 7 PowerPoint ○ Reading DUE: Any complete online translation of the extant text of the myth 	<p><i>Available</i> 7/10-7/16</p> <p>Quiz #8 <i>Available</i> 7/10-7/16</p>
Week 4	<hr/>	
<i>July 10</i>	Lesson 8: Egypt	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 8 PowerPoint ○ View films: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. “Mystic Lands: Egypt Cycle of Life” 10. “Reform at All Costs: Akhenaton” ○ Reading DUE: The Bible, Genesis and Exodus 	
	Lesson 9 : Mythology of the First Jews	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 9 PowerPoint ○ View film: “The Torah” 	<p>Quiz #9 <i>Available</i> 7/17-7/23</p>
Week 5	<hr/>	
<i>July 17</i>	Lesson 10: Persia	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 10 PowerPoint 	<p>Quiz #10 <i>Available</i> 7/17-7/23</p>
	Lesson 11: The Goddess	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 11 PowerPoint 	<p>Quiz #11 <i>Available</i> 7/24-7/28</p>
Week 6	<hr/>	
<i>July 24</i>	Lesson 12: Greece and Homer	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View Lesson 12 PowerPoint ○ View Lesson 13 PowerPoint ○ Reading DUE: Homer, The Odyssey ○ View film, “Great Books: Homer’s Odyssey” 	<p>EXAM 2 <i>Available</i> 7/24-7/28</p> <p>PAPER <i>Due</i> <i>Friday, July 28, at 11:59</i> <i>PM</i></p>