

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**HUMANITIES 155 – WORLD MYTHOLOGY THROUGH THE HUMANITIES**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

Exploration of world mythologies through broader consideration of their place within the humanities. Students will examine a variety of myths, legends, folklore, and fairy tales, as well as relevant themes, symbols, archetypes, etc.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

- 1) Survey of myths and related sorts of narratives from a variety of world cultures.
- 2) Modern myths.
- 3) Thematic interconnections between myths, philosophy, religious thought, psychology, creative arts and literature, etc.
- 4) The “monomyth,” the journey of the hero figure
- 5) The meaning and function of fairy tales and related materials; comparing and contrasting narrative and other materials to see how both myth and fantasy relate to the struggle for meaning in life.

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and analyze recurring motifs, themes, and patterns in myths.
- 2) Compare and contrast the mythological presuppositions of different world cultures.
- 3) Identify, compare, and contrast prominent interdisciplinary approaches for interpreting myth (e.g., via psychology, philosophy, religion, the visual and performing arts, literature, etc.).

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Expository essays
- 2) Quizzes (multiple choice)
- 3) Exams (essays)
- 4) Research papers
- 5) Critical reading journals or worksheets

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart classroom

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Audiovisual presentations

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Short essays and written assignments that explore thematic interconnections between myths, philosophy, religious thought, psychology, creative arts and literature, etc.
- 2) Written homework assignments (worksheets, journals, etc.) which summarize and/or reflect upon the assigned reading materials
- 3) Research papers that explore mythic themes and interdisciplinary connections in a more comprehensive manner

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Leeming, David. *The World of Myth: An Anthology*. 3rd edition. Oxford, 2019.
  - b. Segal, Robert. *Myth: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd edition. Oxford, 2015.
  - c. Campbell, Joseph. *The Power of Myth*. Reissue edition. Anchor, 1991.
  - d. Philip, Neil. *Myths and Legends*. DK Adult, 2009.
  - e. Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology: An Anthology of the Great Myths and Epics*. 3rd edition. McGraw-Hill, 2001.
  - f. Thury, Eva and Devinney, Margaret. *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*. 4th edition. Oxford, 2016.
- 2) Supplemental: None

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1) Interpret how the social, cultural, and/or historical context of world mythologies inform their meanings, values, and/or significance.
- 2) Analyze and apply the themes, symbols, and messages in world mythologies to students' own lives, identities, and experiences.
- 3) Analyze how mythologies in world cultures are used to contest, assert, or mediate social and cultural power related to race, caste, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and/or religion.
- 4) Develop an argument or thesis statement related to world mythologies and support that argument with reliable evidence.