

HUM 8 Course Outline as of Summer 2025**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: HUM 8 Title: COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY

Full Title: Comparative Mythology

Last Reviewed: 10/8/2018

Units	Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks		Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: HUMAN 8

Catalog Description:

This course investigates myths representing diverse global cultures; introduces scholarly theories and methods of interpretation; compares and contrasts plot structures, themes and character types within and across cultures; analyzes the creation of modern myths; and traces myth's relationship with language, history, politics, religion and the arts.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:**Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course investigates myths representing diverse global cultures; introduces scholarly theories and methods of interpretation; compares and contrasts plot structures, themes and character types within and across cultures; analyzes the creation of modern myths; and traces myth's relationship with language, history, politics, religion and the arts. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Fall 1981	
CSU GE:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1987	
IGETC:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze and critique a myth for its ideological content and values.
2. Trace and explicate the evolution of a myth in its permutations through time.
3. Identify and critique the mythic elements in contemporary political and religious discourse.

Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define "myth" and distinguish it from "fiction," "legend," and "folklore."
2. Apply several different approaches to the study of myth.
3. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences in myths of various cultural origins, including representative examples from at least three of the following cultural areas: Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America and Pacific Islands.
4. Identify and analyze patterns or themes reflected in myths, whatever their origins.
5. Place the myth in cultural context and establish interconnections with other art forms and cultures.
6. Analyze different versions of a myth and explicate its evolutionary trajectory.
7. Explicate the relationship of myth and ritual.
8. Explicate how myth defines and understands humanity's relationship with the natural world.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Introduction to Various Approaches to the Study of Mythology
 - A. Psychological or Jungian
 - B. Cultural/historical
 - C. Literary, including connections between myth, legend, folk tale

and fairy tale

D. Religious

II. Discussion and Analysis of Representative Myths and Mythic Themes from at least Three of the Following Cultural Areas, Within a Cultural Context:

A. Europe

B. Africa

C. Asia

D. North America

E. Latin America

F. Pacific Island and other island cultures

III. Exploration of Major Themes in Myth as Evidenced in Specific Myths, such as:

A. Hero's journey

B. Death, descent to underworld, rebirth

C. Creation

D. Tricksters

E. Apocalyptic scenarios

F. Sex and Gender

G. Social Formation

H. Ecology and sustainability

I. Nature and Culture

Assignment:

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 20-50 pages
2. Two to five essays (minimum 250 words)
3. Exams, essay and/or objective format (2 - 5)
4. Quizzes (2 - 7)
5. Research paper (minimum 1000 words)
6. Cumulative final project consisting of one or more of the following:
objective exam, essay exam, portfolio, oral presentation
7. Optional creative projects such as interviews, performances, oral presentations, or field trips

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essays

Writing
30 - 50%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations
0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, true/false, matching items, completion, essay exams, text analysis

Exams
40 - 70%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Interview, classroom participation, oral presentation, or field trip reports

Other Category
0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Mythology. 4th ed. Thury, Eva M. and Devinney, Margaret K. Oxford University Press. 2016

The World of Myth: An Anthology. 2nd ed. Leeming, David. Oxford University Press. 2013 (classic)

Myths from Mesopotamia. Revised. Dalley, Stephanie (translator). Oxford University Press. 2009 (classic)

Popol Vuh: Sacred Book of the Maya: The Great Classic of Central American Spirituality. Christenson, Allen (translator). University of Oklahoma Press. 2007 (classic)

Homeric Hymns. Cashford, Jules (translator) and Richardson, Nicholas (editor, introduction). Penguin. 2003 (classic)

The Poetic Edda. Acker, Paul and Larrington, Carolyne (editors). Routledge. 2002 (classic)