HUMAN 8 Course Outline as of Fall 2009

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: HUMAN 8 Title: COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY
Full Title: Comparative Mythology
Last Reviewed: 8/25/2025

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:	

Catalog Description:
This course provides an introductory survey of comparative mythology in a global context, including an exploration of themes common to the myths of many cultures, a comparative analysis of representative myths, and an exploration of the cultural context of myth and its influence on arts and literature.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: This course provides an introductory survey of comparative mythology in a global context, including an exploration of themes common to the myths of many cultures, a comparative analysis of representative myths, and an exploration of the cultural context of myth and its influence on arts and literature. (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 2025	
	L3	Arts and Humanities		
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	Fall 2025
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

Outcomes and Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Recognize and apply several different approaches to the study of myth.
2. 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.
3. Identify and analyze patterns or themes reflected in myths, whatever their origins.
4. Place the myth in cultural context and establish interconnections with other art forms and cultures.

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 journey
b. Death, descent to underworld, rebirth
c. Creation myths
d. Other themes

Assignment:

1. Close readings of primary texts, related readings, and supplemental materials (20 - 40 pages per week).
2. Written work, including several essays or one long term paper (essays, comparative analysis and exploration of mythic themes).
3. Quizzes and/or mid-term exam (option of instructor).
4. Final exam, final paper, or final project.
5. Creative projects related to study of myth. (optional).

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.

Term papers, 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, Completion, Essay Exams	Exams 30 - 50%

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

Creative Projects, activities and participation	Other Category 10 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Comparative Mythology: Ancient Near Eastern Creation Stories, 2nd edition. Thompson, Eric. LAD: 2009

Hindu Myths. Dallapiccola, A.L. University of Texas: 2003

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

Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths. Thury, Eva M. and Devinney, Margaret K. Oxford University Press: 2004

Myths from Mesopotamia. Dalley, Stephanie (translator). Oxford University Press: 1989 (classic)

The Poetic Edda. Acker, Paul and Larrington, Carolyne (editors). Oxford University Press: 2002

Popol Vuh. Rev. Ed. Tedlock, Dennis (translator). Simon & Schuster: 1996 (classic)