

Welcome and Course Description

"Myths are clues to the spiritual potentialities of the human potentialities of life." Joseph Campbell

"I believe that legends and myths are largely made of "truth," and indeed present aspects of it that can only be received in this mode." J.R.R. Tolkien

"A myth is a way of making sense in a senseless world. Myths are narrative patterns that give significance to our existence." Rollo May

- ☪ This course is designed to explore a variety of texts revolving around mythology and folklore from various cultures. In Mythology and Folklore, you will describe myths related to the creation of the world, the natural elements, and the destruction of the world. You will identify the main characters of various dynastic dramas, love myths, and epic legends and describe their journeys. You will trace the evolution of folklore and describe folktales from around the world.

We will also read, analyze, and respond to selected articles, stories, poems, and novel excerpts. You will write academic and creative papers as well as produce creative projects, comics, etc.

Prerequisite Skills

Mythology and Folklore is a beginner's course and does not have specific prerequisites.

Nevertheless, these fundamental skills will be helpful:

Basic computer skills

Ability to structure and process information






General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

Complete basic operations with word-processing software such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs

Perform online research using various search engines and library databases

Course Expectations

-  I post the daily agenda on the board every day
-  You will receive a variety of assessments including tests, quizzes, essays, projects, and writing activities.
-  We will respond to a variety of quotes related to mythology and/or our particular studies
-  I assign frequent writing and reading assignments.
-  We will read a variety of myths as well as view documentaries, interviews, and movies based on mythological ideas.

- ✎ We will demonstrate through writing, discussions, cooperative learning, internet research, and presentations, our ability to think critically in preparation for entering college and going into the world of work.
- ✎ We will cultivate a passion to become life-long learners and critical thinkers.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Identify and describe various myths, legends, and folklore.
- Explain the importance of mythology in every culture and describe the characteristics and supernatural powers of various gods and goddesses in classical mythology.
- Describe various myths related to the creation and destruction of the world.
- Describe myths related to various natural elements and events.
- Identify the protagonists of various dynastic dramas and describe their struggles.
- Identify the prominent characters involved in the Trojan War and describe their struggles during the conflict.
- Describe how Odysseus triumphs over various obstacles and perils on his journey back home from Troy.
- Identify the different stages of a hero cycle and describe the qualities and virtues embodied by the heroes in various stories.
- Describe the adventures of various heroes and explain how they defeat the monsters they encounter on their journey.
- Describe various myths about love involving gods, goddesses, and mortals.
- Identify the main characters in the legends of King Arthur and Robin Hood and describe their roles in these British legends.
- Describe various stories involving legendary monsters, places, and people.
- Trace the evolution of folklore and describe various folktales from around the world.
- Identify the main characters of various fairy tales and describe their roles.
- Describe the roles of tricksters in various myths, legends, and folklore.

Class Expectations

- ✓ We treat others with KINDNESS and RESPECT at ALL times.
- ✓ Growing our Brains is not supposed to be easy; ASK FOR HELP! Be an advocate for yourself and your education.
- ✓ You are an important part of our class! We need you with us to start on time. So, please arrive promptly.
- ✓ You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence(s) of that choice. Therefore, Stop, Think, and Make good choices for you and our classroom.
- ✓ Establish and maintain an INSPIRING work ethic. Mrs. Holt doesn't GIVE grades; You EARN the grade that you receive.
- ✓ Unplug and BE PRESENT! Social Media, Friends, and everything else outside our classroom can wait. Learning and growing your mind is more important.
- ✓ JUST BREATHE. YOU GOT THIS. In our classroom, we always support and encourage when it comes to our education, our safety, and our well-being.
BUT MOST OF ALL...
- ✓ Laugh at Mrs. Holt's corny jokes and puns #She is just trying to make you smile!

NOTE: No one can make you behave if you are bound and determined not to, but things are much better if you do. Make the most of your instructional time. Get enough rest so you are not sleepy in class. We can have a great year together if everyone cooperates.

Attendance Policy and Makeup Work

"Hey, don't be late or skip class because I will check to see where you were. Also, if you're not in school, it is your responsibility to acquire your makeup work. Arrange to come promptly and take missed tests and quizzes. If you do not complete missed work or tests in 3 days, then that missed work will go down as a zero in the grade book.

Class Work, Homework, and Cheating Policy

1. Assignments must have name, date, block, in the upper-right-hand corner, with title on title-line
2. Plagiarism policy is strictly enforced
3. Class work mandates participation
4. Take advantage of the time given in class to complete work. NOTE: It is NOT Free Time when you are given time in class to work on homework/projects
5. All work turned in on time (no late work)

Expect homework at least four nights a week, and every night when reading a novel, play, or writing an essay.

Cheating in any form constitutes an ethical infraction of the most serious form. It will be punished by an automatic zero with no makeup allowed. I would prefer an honest F to a cheating incident (at least we both know you are not getting the material) Please do not violate the trust I put in each of you to be honest and do your own work. Cheating never helps anyone in the long run.

Basis of Grading

Writing

Essays
Creative

Classwork/Homework

Reading Assignments
Reading Responses
Quizzes
Homework Assignment

Participation

Notebook,
Note-Taking, Group
Work, Attendance,
Attitude, Projects,
Presentations, Asking
Questions, Discussions,
Citizenship, Respect

Exams

Unit exams
Essay exams
Semester exams

Grading Scale: A (93-100) B (85-92) C (75-84) D (70-74) F (0-69)

Supplies

- 1) 1 inch three-ring binder (for Mythology only)
- 2) Loose-leaf paper
- 4) Writing utensils (pencils and pens)

Course Pacing Guide

(Not all will be covered in class. I will choose the units as time allows)

Unit 1: The Gods/Goddesses
Unit 2: Creation
Unit 3: The Underworld/Afterlife
Unit 4: Nature/Natural Disasters
Unit 5: Mythological Heroes and Hero's Journey

Unit 6: Cryptids/Mythological Monsters
Unit 7: Urban Legends
Unit 8: Fairy Tales/Folklore

Textbook/Tools Used: *Mythology by Edith Hamilton and Edmentum Online Educational Platform*

Progress Reports and Parent Contact

Progress reports will be issued every four and a half weeks until the end of the nine weeks when a nine weeks grade will be issued. All progress reports must be signed by parents or guardians and returned to Mrs. Holt. *Since mythology reflects the human condition, some of the stories noted above may contain scenes of violence or a coming of age nature.

Please contact me if there are questions or concerns. During school, I can be reached at (423) 487-5602.

Student and Parent Agreement

Parents, after reading and reviewing all sections of the *Mythology Course Syllabus* with your child, please sign below and return this portion.

The syllabus and other information can be found on my classroom website at iteachandknowthings.weebly.com

☺ Student Name (Print)

☺ Parent or Guardian Signature