I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines world mythology in comparative perspective, analyzes myths from a variety of cultures utilizing social science methods, and considers the application of mythological ideas and symbols in the present world within the humanities.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To develop analytical skills for mythological material
2. To recognize mythical elements to historical narrative
3. To identify mythological themes in the art of five geographical areas
4. To know five major stages of Heroic epic in mythology
5. To evaluate the function of myth in pre-modern and modern society

III. WITHDRAWAL
It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course due to schedule or personal complications. Failure to drop after terminating attendance will result in an F at the end of the semester. Withdrawal deadline to receive a W is March 18.

IV. EXPECTATIONS
Class attendance: Attendance of every class will enhance your comprehension and appreciation of the material in the text books. Be on time for every class. Tardiness disrupts everyone. Please turn off cell phones. Laptops are allowed for class work only.

Reading Assignments: Bring relevant text books to every class. Read all assignments prior to date in syllabus. Keep notes from reading, lecture, and class discussion. These will be helpful in writing the papers.

Discussion: All students are encouraged to participate in discussion, whether in agreement or disagreement with texts or fellow students. The instructor reserves the need to maintain schedule
V. REQUIREMENTS

Writing Assignments: Each student will write THREE papers (college quality). Each paper will analyze two short or one longer myth from each of the major topics listed in the Schedule below. Each paper must consider the social and cultural context for the myths chosen. Be sure to consider the value system being promoted in each myth. Comparison and contrast is recommended for discussion purposes only, not to subordinate one myth to another as “true” or “false”. For each myth ask yourself, what is being taught to the viewer or listener about life, gods, morals, customs, or beliefs. Put yourself in the mind of the original audience as much as possible. Be sure to incorporate any art relevant to the selected myths.

Paper 1: Cosmic Myths: Choose a myth to discuss creation, destruction, or afterlife. Discuss one “Truth” and one “proof” in the myth (see Intro notes). Discuss how these stories order and organize the original society. Then choose a second audience to discuss their reaction to the same “Truths” or “Proofs” of the myth. Are they still believable (proofs)? Meaningful (Truths)? Why or why not?

Paper 2: Myths of the Gods: Choose one god from two societies and discuss how their powers benefit each society. Compare how they function in each society. What powers do they have and why is that important to the people? What “Truth” do the stories teach? Would they work for another audience? What replaced them?

Paper 3: Hero Myths: Choose a hero type or episode to discuss their “heroic” deed and why it was important to or valued by the original society. Explain any sacred place or object associated with the hero. What “Truth” comes from the hero’s role to the society? Would the hero appeal or disgust another audience? Why?

Exams: There will be 2 essay exams given in class and 1 final. See dates below in the Schedule. Conflict with testing dates must be addressed prior to the test. Unexcused absences on test dates will result in a “0” test score.

VI. GRADE CRITERIA

The Final Grade will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Papers</td>
<td>50% (Combined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams</td>
<td>45% (Combined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>05%</td>
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</tbody>
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Numerical and letter grade scale:

Grades: A=100-90, B=89-80, C=79-70, D=69-60. (+/- scale: 0-2=minus, 7-9=plus)

VII. TEXT BOOKS