

Course Description: An introductory comparative survey of the mythology of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

I. Objectives:

Students in the course will read, in English translation, the mythologies of the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians. These narratives include creation stories, stories about death and the afterlife, stories about the gods and their doings, ancient epics, and stories that explain the way the world is. These texts were written over a period of millennia and are examples of some of the earliest surviving literature in the world.

With respect to the mythologies of the cultures studied in class, the student will be able to:

- 1) recount the central narratives that have been preserved, and identify primary figures involved
- 2) articulate the varied perspectives that characterize the world-views and life-concerns expressed in these texts,
- 3) identify and explain basic theoretical issues involved in the analysis of myth and the relationship of these issues to the myths studied in class,
- 4) identify and evaluate cultural adjuncts to narrative texts, such as symbolic artifacts and iconographic motifs.

II. Achieving the Objectives:

- 1) Class-room Lectures/Interaction.
- 2) Daily readings/Study Questions/Daily Quizzes.
- 3) Writing Assignments.
- 4) Tests.

III. Measuring Achievement of the Objectives: Grading:

25% Daily Quizzes. (At the beginning of every class meeting, based on Study Questions).

30% Writing Assignments: **Sept 15, Oct 18, and Dec 6**

30% Midterms: **Tuesday, Sept 20, and Thursday, Oct 20**

15% **Final: Tuesday, Dec 13, 2:00pm-3:45pm**

Late Assignments or quizzes are not accepted for full credit. Because of inevitable circumstances beyond the student's control, 10% of all quizzes will be dropped. This means that for those who faithfully submit all quizzes, 10% of their work with the lowest grades will be dropped.

IV. Required texts: Please acquire these texts (they can be ordered online easily).

Stephanie Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia*. Oxford: 1989.

Raymond O. Faulkner tr., Carol Andrews, ed. *The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead*. Austin, 1990.

VI. Working Schedule (subject to revision):

The following schedule provides an overview of the course, specifying subjects conceptual topics and readings.

- 8/23 Course Introduction : Myth/Background of Mesopotamia
- 8/25 Mesopotamia: Sumer Area One: Creation Myths
Readings: *How Grain Came to Sumer, Enki and the World Order, The Flood Story* (On Carmen).
- 8/30 Area Two: Myths of the Sumerian High Gods:
Readings: *Enlil and Ninlil, Enlil and Sud* (On Carmen).
- 9/1 Readings: *Enki and Ninmah, Enki and Ninḥursaga* (On Carmen).
- 9/6 Area Three: Myths of Inanna/Ishtar and Family
Readings: *Inana and Enki, Dumuzid and Geštinana* (On Carmen).
- 9/8 Readings *Inanna's Descent*: (On Carmen) **Myths from Mesopotamia: Ishtar's Descent**: 154-160.
- 9/13 Area Four: Heroic Men and Heroic Gods I:
Readings: *Enmerkar and the Lord Aratta, Lugalbanda and the Anzud Bird* (On Carmen).
- 9/15** Readings: *Ninurta's Exploits, Ninurta and the Turtle* (On Carmen). **Sept. 15, 1st Paper Due.**

Midterm I, Tuesday, September 20th

- 9/22 Mesopotamia: Babylon and Assyria Area Five: Myths of Life and Death:
Readings: **Myths:** *Atrahasis*, 1-35, *Theogony of Dunnu*, 278-281.
- 9/27 Readings: **Myths:** *Nergal and Ereshkigal*: 163-181, *Adapa*: 182- 188, *Kumma's Descent* (On Carmen).
- 9/29 Area Six: Myths of the Gods of Empire: Marduk/Ashur:
Readings: **Myths:** *The Epic of Creation*: 228-277.
- 10/4 Area Seven: Myths of Heroes, Gods and Men:
Readings: **Myths:** *Etana*: 189-202, *Anzu*: 203-221.
- 10/6 Readings: *Gilgamesh and Aga*, *Gilgamesh and Huwawa* **Myths:** OBV *Gilgamesh*, 136-154.
- 10/11 Readings: **Myths:** *Gilgamesh*: 39-83 (Finish Tablet VI).
- 10/18 Readings: **Myths:** *Gilgamesh* 83-134.
October 18th: 2nd Paper Due.

Midterm II, Thursday, October 20th

- 10/25 Egypt: Area One: Creation Myths:
Readings: **Tues: Course Reader:** *Khnum Creator of Bodies*, *Memphite Theology*, *The Book of Knowing the Creation* (On Carmen).
- 10/27 Area Two: Solar Gods: Readings: **Book of the Dead:** *Intro. Hymn to Re*: 27, *Spell 15*: 40-44, *Spell 79*: 78, *Spell 103*: 100, *Spell 167*: 162, *Spell 186*: 185. *Deliverance of Mankind*.
- 11/1 Readings: **Book of the Dead:** *Amun Texts*, *Great Hymn to the Aten*, (On Carmen).
- 11/3 Area Three: Horus/Seth/Osiris Myths:
Readings: *Horus and Seth*: 32-36, *Truth and Falsehood*: 30-31 (On Carmen).
Book of the Dead: *Intro Hymn to Osiris*: 27, *Spell 128*: 116-117. *The Songs of Isis and Nephthys*, *Chapter of the Divine* (On Carmen).
- 11/8 Area Five: Magicians and Extraordinary Peoples:
Readings: *Westcar Papyrus*, *Setne Khamwas*, *Setne and Osire*, *Love Spells* (On Carmen).
- 11/10 Readings: *The Doomed Prince*, *The Two Brothers*, *Sinuhe* (On Carmen).
Area Six: The Soul.
Readings: *Horus: Mighty Bull*, *The Shipwrecked Sailor*, *Dialogue of a Man and his Ba*
- 11/15 Area Seven: Death in Ancient Egypt: 3/10
Readings: *Pyramid Texts* (On Carmen)
- 11/17 Readings: *Coffin Texts* (On Carmen)
- 11/22 Readings: **Book of the Dead:** *Spell 30B and Spell 125*: 27-34, *Spells 1-2*: 34-36, *Spell 5-6*: 36-37, *Spell 23*: 51-52, *Spell 53*: 65.
- 11/29 Readings: **Book of the Dead:** *Spells 25-30A*: 52-55, *Spells 31-35*: 56-58, *Spells 38*: 59-60, *Spells 39 and 108*: 60-61 and 101-102, *Spell 42*: 62, *Spell 85*: 82-83, *Spell 130*: 117-120.
- 12/1 **Book of the Dead:** *Spells 44-45*: 63-64, *Spell 74*: 73, *Spell 83*: 80, *Spell 89*: 84-85 *Spell 98 and 100*: 89 and 98, *Spell 105*: 101, *Spell 110*: 103-108, *Spell 151*: 145-148, *Spell 175*: 175.
- 12/6 Readings: **Book of the Dead:** *Spell 17*: 44-50, **Coffin Text**: 335 (On Carmen).
: 3rd Paper Due.

Final Exam: Tuesday, Dec 13, 2:00pm-3:45pm. If you are unable to take the final exam at the time specified, you must make other arrangements the first week of class (if this is possible) or drop the class.

The Midterm and Final exams will contain a mix of identification and short answer questions. We do writing assignments so we don't have to do essays on tests.

Written Assignments: Assignments will be a response to a thematic issue relevant to the Mythology based on a number of possible topics suggested in the formal assignment. A response will show the author's reflection on the myths and/or themes studied for the unit, offering commentary and insight and making an argument about the theme. Papers should be submitted before the start of class on the assigned dates **preferably** on Carmen or via email to leidheiser-stoddard.1@osu.edu. Late assignments will not be accepted for full credit.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.)”

Disability policy

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

C. Arts and Humanities – (3) Cultures and Ideas

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze and interpret major forms of human thought, culture, and expression.
2. Students evaluate how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

Diversity: Global Studies:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Achieving Expected Learning Outcomes for NELC 3700: In light of the course description given above, a student who successfully completes the course will have read and analyzed the major narrative portions of the Ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian Mythologies, acquiring a knowledge of the primary deities involved, their interactions in the stories told about them, cultural issues that these texts presuppose, and the perspectives on reality that they display. This will be reflected in exams that test primarily knowledge of the mythological traditions and writing assignments that allow the student to analyze, interpret, and evaluate the traditions. The student will have gained familiarity with two of the most important cultural traditions upon which Western Civilization is based, and be able to articulate why these ancient traditions matter today.