

**Division of Humanities
Department of English
Course Syllabus**

**LIT 229-000
Myth and Literature**

**Semester and year
Section Number
Meeting Times
Location**

**Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
E-mail:
Office Hours:**

Course Description

Myth and Literature is a three-credit general education course that gives students an overview of the mythology of various selected cultures and shows the relation of mythology to our everyday lives. Works range from antiquity to the present. After taking this course, students will be able to analyze and understand mythic symbols in literature (theory, poetry, short stories, and novels). WRT 101 is required. Humanities elective. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Credits.

Student Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment
1. Identify the structure of classical mythology in literature.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
2. Analyze various structures of myth in literature through reading and writing.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
3. Explain how literary myths reflect societal rituals and ways of life in various cultures.	Discussion, Writing
4. Critique, comprehend, and compare cultural myths, including creation myths, in literature.	Discussion, Writing

5. Write papers that demonstrate facility with information literacy and library research databases.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation.
6. Incorporate properly formatted research in support of an argument; and draw conclusions about a mythic topic or theme.	Writing, Multimodal Presentation
7. Examine the ethical implications of myth in literature and its relevance to contemporary society.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation

Essential Learning Outcomes

SLOs:	EL 1	EL 2	EL 3	EL 4	EL 5	EL 6	EL 7	EL 8	EL 9	EL 10	EL 11
1.	x	x							x		
2.	x	x							x		
3.	x	x							x		
4.	x	x							x		
5.	x	x							x		
6.	x	x			x				x		

EL1-Effective Speaking
 EL2-Effective Writing
 EL3-Mathematical Reasoning
 EL4-Scientific Reasoning
 EL5-Technological Competency
 EL6-Information Literacy
 EL7-Social-Behavioral Analysis

EL8-Historical Analysis
 EL9-Humanistic Analysis
 EL10-Intercultural Awareness
 EL11-Moral Literacy

Signature Assignment

Researched Analysis: Students will write a 7-10 paged analysis, using secondary sources, of a primary source text introduced in the course.

Course Content

This course will trace the structure of myth in literature and society. It will study myths and fairy tales that are believed to be true but set in the distant past or another world of extra-human, inhuman, or heroic characters. Attention will also be paid to the many critical and social theories of myth from the 19th and early 20th centuries

(Freud, Frazer, Muller, Jung, etc.). The course will study the unconscious human truths of myth, which are prior to knowing. Some of the mythic themes we will research and discuss are: transformation in mythic character; patterns of the hero's journey; mythic heroes of ancient and modern cultures; steps in the hero or heroine's journey; what makes a hero mythic; modern works of film or literature with mythic aspects (such as: *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Pygmalion*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, or *The Shape of Things*); creation myths, fertility myths; apocalypse, future myth, trickster or messiah figures, comparative myths.

Suggested Texts

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton.

ISBN: 978-0-446-57475-4

Jung, C.G. *Four Archetypes*.

ISBN: 0-691-01766-2

Three Tragedies by Sophocles. Trans. David Grene.

ISBN: 0-226-30792-1

LaBute. *The Shape of Things*

Sylvia Plath. Poems, including "Medusa."

Grading Policy

Quizzes, journals, papers 20%

Discussion Forum 20%.

Midterm 20%

Final 20%

Participation 20%

Course Requirements

Students are required to do the following:

1. Engage in course reading or research. In addition to researching outside class, you are expected to participate in class discussions, take quizzes, and do ALL assignments relating to the reading.
2. Complete all papers using proper documentation and MLA style. Complete all writing exercises, including critical essays, structural analyses, reading responses, in-class assignments.

3. Complete a midterm and final examination based on the readings and class lectures. These will be blue book exams and all materials covered until previously. Exam content will consist of one-part reference and identification questions on all the readings and lectures. The other part will be a required essay that pulls together course themes and demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of course texts.
4. Complete several quizzes on assigned readings. You can use your books and notes to take these quizzes. They will be timed, multiple choice, or true/false. I may drop your lowest grade.

Paper Submission Policy

There will be several formal papers and other small writing assignments for the course. You are expected to write the papers using reference materials and MLA format. These papers should be double-spaced and include a works cited. Your grade will be based on your thesis, organization, quality of ideas, development, evidence, clarity, grammar, and technical prowess. For a sample paper and example of proper MLA documentation.

Attendance Policy

Your presence is vital to our classroom community, so regular attendance is required. You will be permitted *four absences* after which your grade will be negatively affected. You are expected to come to class every day prepared to discuss assigned texts and to produce written responses both in class and at home.

A note on plagiarism: please give credit where credit is due! Honesty is expected of you. It is expected that the work you hand in will always be your own, and that you will never copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or whole essays from any other person's work, for that is plagiarism. If you are ever unclear about how to cite another person or author's ideas, come see me or consult the staff in the writing center.

Written assignments must be formatted according to MLA standards. You will find citation guides on our library's website. Please note that you will also be expected to produce a documented term paper with secondary sources; and you may find appropriate—relevant—resources in our library. You are encouraged to schedule an appointment with one of our reference librarians if you did not attend an instructional seminar in your writing class.

BCC's Writing Center is located in L125, and you are encouraged to work with our faculty and professional writing tutors. Please note that the center is indeed a tutoring center—you are not to drop off your paper for proofreading as this is not a function of the center.

Accessibility Statement

Bergen Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Special Services (OSS) as soon as possible at 201-612-5270 or www.bergen.edu/oss. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OSS. The OSS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. The OSS serves as a clearinghouse on disability issues and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices.

Student Support Services

Bergen Community College provides exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. A comprehensive array of student support services including advising, tutoring, academic coaching, and more are available online at <https://bergen.edu/currentstudents/>.



Sidney Silverman Library

BCC's library (2nd floor, Pitkin Educational Center, 201-447-7131, <http://bergen.edu/current-students/student-support-services/library>) is a superb resource for students in all disciplines, but particularly for students in Literature sections. Please visit the library and library for invaluable background information and critical perspectives on all genres of literature, their historical significance, and individual authors.

[Guides BY SUBJECT - LibGuides at Bergen Community College](#)

General Search and Databases: [Library | Bergen Community College](#)

Sample Course Outline

Week 1 **Introduction to Classical Mythology. Myth and Language.**

Week 2 **Structural Aspects of Myth.**
Vladimir Propp

- Week 3** **Myth and Psychoanalysis**
C. G. Jung, Archetypes
- Week 4** **Oedipus and Family Myth**
Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*
- Week 5** **Oedipus and Hamilton**
Tragedy vs. Epic
Due PAPER #1
- Week 6** **Heroes, Heroines, and Hero Archetype**
Joseph Campbell, excerpts, *Hero with a Thousand Faces*
Mid-term Review
- Week 7** **Homeric Heroes,**
Odysseus, Achilles, Agamemnon
Mid-term Exam
- Week 8** **Fairy Tales Heroines and Monsters**
Perrault's "Bluebeard"
- Week 9** **Creation (*Eros/Thanatos*) Myths**
Psyche and Eros: Neumann, on *Amor and Psyche*
- Week 10** **Ancient and Contemporary Myth**
Camus' *The Outsider* and *Myth of Sisyphus*
C. G. Jung, Rebirth Archetype.
- Week 11** *Sisyphus* continued
Due: PAPER: #2
- Week 12** Franz Kafka "The Metamorphosis" On Spirit archetype
- Week 13** **Trickster Archetypes and Myths**
Silko, *Ceremony*
Jung, Trickster archetype
- Week 14** Dostoevsky *The Double*; Jung, Pp. 85-100
Freud's "Dostoyevsky and Parricide"
- Week 15** Review for Final Exam, **Final Exam, Due: PAPER #3**