Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 123

Course Title: Introduction to Mythology and Folklore

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Study of mythologies of various cultures especially Greek and Roman, but including Norse, Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Native American, African, and Polynesian. G.E. Course meets World/Eastern Culture graduation requirement.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Many mythology texts are suitable for this course as long as they include coverage of the cultures listed above. Those listed below represent texts which provide coverage of Eastern and Western cultures within a range of mythological approaches and biases.


Course Objectives:
- To undertake an intensive course of readings, discussions and written exercises about mythology.
- To evaluate archetypal mythological stories and figures as they appear in a variety of the world’s cultures.
- To explain the varying role of myths in society.
- To demonstrate the significant parallels in the structure of myths of diverse cultures.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:
- Recognize the archetypal patterns and symbolic events common to the myths of all cultures.
- Understand myths as the stories that express and examine basic ethical questions of humanity, the relationship of individuals to society, and of human society to the cosmos.
- Explain the relationship of these myths to society from a variety of critical perspectives (e.g., anthropological, psychological, and literary).
Identify the defining characteristics of common mythological figures: the hero, trickster, fertility god, earth mother.

Departmental policy requires a minimum of 4500 words graded student writing for this course. Assessment should include one five-page, researched essay on a subject relating to myth, three short-answer and essay exams, and an in-class final exam.

Each of the following as they appear in myths of various world cultures. The course could be organized either by myth type or by culture:
- The Archetypal “voyage of the hero”
- Heroic figures
- Trickster figures
- Fertility myths
- Creation myths

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Edward Christie

Date: September 12, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.