ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

Division: Humanities  Course Prefix and Number: HUM 2343

Course Title: Classical Mythology

Semester and Year Submitted: REVISED Spring 2016  Credit Hours: 3

Prepared by: Sherri Mussatto and Kristin Hahn

Hours Per Week:  Class: 3  Lab: 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
This course is primarily a study of Greco-Roman myth, saga, and society, with an emphasis on literary aspects and significance of myth. It may be taken as Humanities credit for General Education requirements. Prerequisite: Successful completion of or current enrollment in ENGL 1113.

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Text(s):

Title: Classical Mythology
Author: Mark Morford, Robert Lenardon, and Michael Sham
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Copyright Date: 2011
Reading Level: 12th Grade

Supplemental Materials: (Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
The individual instructor may select audio-visual presentations concerning American authors and their works. Additional reading may be used to supplement the text selections.
Rationale:
A study of myth will demonstrate the wisdom and truth of these ancient stories, as well as expose the students to classical literature and the values of those writings. A knowledge of myth will deepen students' understanding and appreciation of the classics and their place in the Humanistic learning tradition, as well as give students basic tools for understanding mythical allusions in literature, art, music, advertising, and other fields. An additional purpose of this course is to not only learn about they myths, but about how the myths are reflective of the ancient society that believed in these stories.

Expected Outcomes (Course Objectives):
Upon completing the course, the student should, as evaluated by the instructor:

1. Define and explain the significance, origin, and the meaning of the term, "myth"
2. Identify the meanings and significance of Greco-Roman myths
3. Recall the names of the various deities and heroes and recognize the stories connected to them
4. Recognize the universal themes and ideas among the Greco-Roman myths
5. Relate the myths and their themes to modern society
6. Engage in a critical reading of a variety of myths; recognize, understand, and explain various literary elements of myth, from characters and stories to archetypes and narrative structures
7. Write well-organized, thesis driven papers about mythology, and support ideas with explicit reasoning and textual evidence
8. Conduct research, evaluate secondary sources, and cite literary evidence using accurate MLA conventions

Methods of Instruction:
Methods of instruction may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. The following methods of instruction may be used in order to accomplish the stated objectives:

1. lectures
2. audio-visual presentations
3. guest lecturers
4. individual research and library work
5. oral and/or written work
6. class discussion
7. individual conferences
8. journals or other written responses to literature
9. exams and quizzes
10. online learning management system component
Assessment (Including Critical Thinking Measurements):
Methods may vary with professor but could include the following:
1. Essay tests
2. Research projects
3. Short essays on selected myths
4. Objective exams
5. Chapter quizzes
6. Oral presentations
7. Discussion board discussion postings
8. At least ten pages of credited writing for assessment, inquiry, learning, thinking, and/or communication

Learning Objectives:

Unit One: An Introduction to Mythology (Expected Outcomes 1, 2, 4, and 6)
1. Define myth
2. Differentiate among myths, legends, folktales, and fairytales
3. Analyze how myth and religion are intertwined
4. Identify the major sources for classical mythology
5. Describe the social and cultural customs and beliefs in ancient Greece

Unit Two: Creation of the Universe, Gods, and Humankind (Expected Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
1. Analyze and compare Greek and other cultures' creation myths
2. Distinguish among the stories of the creation of humankind
3. Describe the characteristics of the Ages of Man
4. Differentiate among the Greek and other cultures' flood myths

Unit Three: The Olympians (Expected Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
1. Contrast the differences between the gods and humans
2. Explain the order of divinity in the Greek pantheon
3. Define anthropomorphism
4. Analyze the defining characteristics of the Twelve Olympians
5. Judge the relationships among the Olympians
6. Relate the major stories connected to each of the Twelve Olympians
Unit Four: The Greek Epics (Expected Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)

1. Identify the characteristics of an epic
2. Summarize the Trojan Saga
3. Summarize the Odyssey
4. Evaluate the evidence of truth on these epics
5. Analyze the role of the gods in epics and their effect on the outcome of events
6. Analyze the nature of the Greek tragic hero as seen in the Iliad and the Odyssey
7. Recognize the themes of the major Greek epics

Unit Four: The Heroes (Expected Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)

1. Identify the motifs related to the hero in Greek saga
2. Identify the motifs related to the heroine in Greek saga
3. Relate the stories of major heroes such as Perseus, Heracles, Theseus, and Jason

Unit Five: The Influence of Mythology in Modern Society (Expected Outcomes 5 and 6)

1. Recognize the use of classical myth in contemporary art, music, film, and literature
2. Discuss the secularization of myth and mythology in the modern world
3. Discuss the demythologization of major religious traditions
4. Explore the political and social uses of myth in the modern world

Unit Six: Research Unit (Expected Outcomes 7 and 8)

1. Evaluate sources for use in scholarly research.
2. Demonstrate the ability to write a research paper using accurate MLA conventions.
3. Compose a well-developed research paper using specific evidence from primary and secondary sources.