World Mythology: Ancient Myths and Modern Dilemmas
Course # 3502

Spring 2010 Tues/Thurs 12:35- 1:50
Fisher Hall 131

Office Hours: Mon. 12pm – 1:00pm, Tues. 11am -12pm
Kettythomas@yahoo.com, or by appointment
Office Location: Walker 331

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Because the subject of mythology is so vast, this course will explore myth and tragedy from classical antiquity to contemporary articulations primarily in Western culture. By examining the discourse espoused in ancient Greek tragedy, the relationship between gods and humans, heroes, heroines and society, we can better find meaning and comprehension of narratives and illustrations found in contemporary art. More importantly, we can begin to understand how social groups develop, applying the function of myths in other cultures beyond the borders of Western society. The motivation behind this course is to develop genuine curiosity for the myths and lores that drive cultures all over the world. The material in this course will include poetry, drama, film and novel.

REQUIRED TEXTS
All texts are available online at www.Amazon.com or the University bookstore. You may cut and paste the links listed below to find the titles and the correct books. AS MYTHS ARE TRANSLATION TEXTS, PLEASE PURCHASE THE TRANSLATIONS LISTED BELOW TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE CLASS.

Aeschylus. The Oresteia Translated by Robert Fagles (Penguin)
Amazon site: http://www.amazon.com/Oresteia-Agamemnon-Libation-Eumenides-Classics/dp/0140443339/ref=cm_cr_pr_sb_t

Sophocles. The Oedipus Plays o/Sophocles trans. Paul Roche (Plume Books)


http://www.amazon.com/Classical-Mythology-Mark-P-Morford/dp/0195308050/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1263268718&sr=1-1
The Course Packet can be found in your Blackboard accounts under “Documents.” You are required to print and bring a copy of the texts to class for lectures and discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular class attendance and participation.
2. Readings: due on the assigned day.
3. In-class quizzes will count for 30% of your final grade. Exams will be given only on days scheduled. Please do not ask for make-up exams. Failure to attend class on an exam day will result in an automatic “F” for that exam.
4. One cumulative Mid-term exam will count for 35% of your final grade.
5. A cumulative Final exam will count for 35% of your final grade.

UNIVERSITY POLICY:

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance the University’s policies. If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aoa/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement:
Tentative Syllabus

January 12  Course Introduction/ What is Myth?
January 14  Hesiod's *Theogony* (CP)/Classical Mythology (CM) Chapter 3
January 19  Hesiod's *Works and Days* (CP)/ CM Chapter 4, 5 (Quiz One)
January 21  The Homeric Hymns (HH) Hymn to Apollo (CP)/ CM Chapter 11
January 26  HH Hymn to Aphrodite (CP)/ CM Chapter 9
January 28  HH Hymn to Dionysus (CP)/ CM Chapter 13
February 2  Discussion on Troy and CM Chapter 19 (Quiz Two)
February 4  Winter Carnival (Classes not in session)
February 9  Film: Troy
February 11  Film: Troy
February 16  Aeschylus *Agamemnon* CM Chapter 18
February 18  Aeschylus' *Lobation Bearers*
February 23  Aeschylus' *Eumenides*
February 25  Midterm
March 2  Jean Paul Sartre's *The Flies* (CP)
March 4  Jean Paul Sartre's *The Flies* (CP)
March 9 to March 11 Spring Recess
March 16  Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* CM Chapter 17
March 18  Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* CM Chapter 17 (Quiz Three)
March 23  Sophocles’ *Antigone*
March 25  Sophocles’ *Antigone*
March 30  Euripides’ *Medea* CM Chapter 24
April 1  Euripides’ *Medea* (Quiz Four)
April 6  Euripides' *Bacchae*
April 8  Euripides' *The Bacchae*
April 13  Film: OLD BOY
April 15  Film: OLD BOY
April 20  Discussion of Old Boy and World Interpretation
April 22  Class Exam