

Comparative & World Literature 260: Myths of the World

Syllabus * Spring 2005 * San Francisco State University

Section 1 * MWF 10:10 – 11:00 * HSS 135 * Code: 12346

Prereq: Grade of C or better in Eng 114 or equivalent * G.E.: Segment 2 Humanities & Creative Arts

Instructor: Dr. Mark Calkins

Email: mcalkins@sfsu.edu

Web Page: <http://online.sfsu.edu/~mcalkins/>

Office: HUM 326

Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 2:00 and by appt.

Office Phone Number: use e-mail

Dept. Office: HUM 377

Dept. Phone Number: (415) 338-2068

Course Description

To read, discuss, and analyze warrior-hero myths and mythologies from a variety of traditions, times and places; to understand the contributions of these mythologies to human culture and world literature; to explore and compare the use and interpretation of these myths by contemporary writers. Students will explore myth, legend, and sacred truths from different religious, national, and political traditions.

Required Books & Materials

Bookstore:

The Epic of Gilgamesh. Trans. Sandars Penguin Classics, 1972 (ISBN: 014044100X)

The Ramayana. Trans. Narayan. Penguin, 1972 (ISBN: 0140187006)

The Bhagavad-Gita. Trans. Miller. Bantam, 1986 (ISBN: 0553213652)

In the Dragon's Claws. Trans. Clinton. Mage, 1999 (ISBN: 0934211566)

Beowulf. Trans. Heaney. Norton, 2000 (ISBN: 0393320979)

The Song of Roland. Trans. Merwin. Modern Library (ISBN: 0375757112)

The Epic of Son-Jara. Trans. Johnson. Indiana University Press, 1992 (ISBN: 0253207134)

Monkey: A Journey to the West. Trans. Kherdian. Shambala, 2000 (ISBN: 1570625816)

Joyce, James. Portrait of the Artist as Young Man. Penguin Classics, 1992 (ISBN: 0142437344)

On Electronic Reserve:

The Iliad (selections)

The Odyssey (selections)

The Tale of the Heike (selections)

<http://online.sfsu.edu/~mcalkins/>

Reading Group Worksheets

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution

Grading: All grades will be recorded as percentages until the final grade converts to a letter grade equivalent: A+ = 97, A = 93, A- = 90, B+ = 87, B = 83, B- = 80, C+ = 79, C = 77, C- = 70, D+ = 67, D = 63, D- = 60, F = 0. I do not round up.

READING GROUP WORK: 65%

PRESENTATION: 15%

FINAL EXAM: 20%

Course Schedule (subject to change)
--

WEEK	DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK ASSIGNED
1	1/31	Intro to Class	read & prepare: <u>The Epic of Gilgamesh</u> - all
	2/2	Intro to Reading Groups (RG)	
	2/4	RG: <u>The Epic of Gilgamesh</u>	read & prepare <u>The Iliad</u> (e-reserve)
2	2/7	RG: <u>The Iliad</u>	read & prepare: <u>The Odyssey</u> (e-reserve)
	2/9	Lecture	
	2/11	RG: <u>The Odyssey</u>	read & prepare <u>The Ramayana</u> (7-34)
3	2/14	RG: <u>The Ramayana</u> (7-34)	read & prepare <u>The Ramayana</u> (35-77)
	2/16	Lecture	
	2/18	RG: <u>The Ramayana</u> (35-77)	read & prepare <u>The Ramayana</u> (79-113)
4	2/21	RG: <u>The Ramayana</u> (79-113)	read & prepare <u>The Ramayana</u> (113-171)
	2/23	Lecture	
	2/25	RG: <u>The Ramayana</u> (113-171)	read & prepare <u>The Bhagavad-Gita</u> (23-83)
5	2/28	RG: <u>The Bhagavad-Gita</u> (23-83)	read & prepare <u>The Bhagavad-Gita</u> (85-146)
	3/2	Lecture	
	3/4	RG: <u>The Bhagavad-Gita</u> (85-146)	read & prepare <u>In the Dragon's Claws</u> (29-81)
6	3/7	RG: <u>In the Dragon's Claws</u> (29-81)	read & prepare <u>In the Dragon's Claws</u> (81-138)
	3/9	Lecture	
	3/11	RG: <u>In the Dragon's Claws</u> (81-138)	read & prepare <u>Beowulf</u> (3-109)
7	3/14	RG: <u>Beowulf</u> (3-109)	read & prepare <u>Beowulf</u> (109-213)
	3/16	Lecture	
	3/18	RG: <u>Beowulf</u> (109-213)	read & prepare <u>The Song of Roland</u> (3-61)
8	3/28	RG: <u>The Song of Roland</u> (3-61)	read & prepare <u>The Song of Roland</u> (61-119)
	3/30	Lecture	
	4/1	no class	
9	4/4	RG: <u>The Song of Roland</u> (61-119)	read & prep <u>The Tale of the Heike</u> (e-reserve)
	4/6	Lecture	
	4/8	RG: <u>The Tale of the Heike</u>	read & prepare <u>The Epic of Son-Jara</u> (19-62)
10	4/11	RG: <u>The Epic of Son-Jara</u> (19-62)	<u>The Epic of Son-Jara</u> (62-101)
	4/13	Lecture	
	4/15	RG: <u>The Epic of Son-Jara</u> (62-101)	read & prepare <u>Monkey</u> (1-52)
11	4/18	RG: <u>Monkey</u> (1-52)	read & prepare <u>Monkey</u> (53-105)
	4/20	Lecture	
	4/22	RG: <u>Monkey</u> (53-105)	read & prepare <u>Monkey</u> (105-157)
12	4/25	RG: <u>Monkey</u> (105-157)	read & prepare <u>Monkey</u> (158-209)
	4/27	Lecture	
	4/29	RG: <u>Monkey</u> (158-209)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (3-54)
13	5/2	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (3-54)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (54-102)
	5/4	Lecture	
	5/6	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (54-102)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (102-150)
14	5/9	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (102-150)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (150-198)
	5/11	Lecture	
	5/13	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (150-198)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (198-243)
15	5/16	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (198-243)	read & prepare <u>Portrait</u> (243-276)
	5/18	Lecture	
	5/20	RG: <u>Portrait</u> (243-276)	
	5/27	Final Exam 8:00 – 10:30 (N/A)	

Course Policies

Attendance: While I do not grade you on attendance, because you will be doing group work on a regular basis, missing class will of consequence adversely affect your grade for Reading Group Work.

Lateness: Arriving late disrupts class. Class begins according to the time on the clock on the classroom wall. If you will regularly be unable to get from one part of campus to class within the allotted time, please see me before the third week of classes.

Late Work: All work must be handed in by the end of class on the day it is due; if you submit your work via e-mail, it must be time-stamped no later than the time that class ends. I do not accept work turned into the Department Office, HUM 125, nor slipped under my office door.

Make-up work following an absence: Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes and assignment details.

Use of outside assistance/Plagiarism zero-tolerance policy: Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignments found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action (from "College of Humanities Plagiarism Resources," <http://www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/plagiarism.html>).

Cell phones, food & drink: Please make sure your cell phone or pager is turned off before you enter class, and please do not bring any food or drink into the classroom. Bottled water is permitted, however.

Access: I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. You are invited to communicate with me at the outset of the course or at your discretion about any accommodations that will improve your experience of or access to the course. You can also contact the Disability Resource Center at 338-2472 (Voice/Tdd).