

REL3325: Religions of Classical Mythology

Instructor: Ruben Garrote

Email: garroter@fiu.edu

Phone: (305) 348 1620

Office: DM 247

Course Description and Purpose

This course explores the sacred narratives and beliefs of ancient (B.C.) Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Mediterranean cultures, with emphasis on the nature and function of myth and its place in religious development.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- trace the historical trajectory of mythic development from Mesopotamia throughout the Mediterranean region;
- describe key texts of ancient mythologies;
- discuss the relationship of mythology, narrative, and religion;
- recognize and analyze the mythic pattern of the hero's journey; and
- critically read mythology with respect for its role in the culture.

Additional REQUIRED material:

Texts: Accounts of the various myths of ancient cultures are assigned and available online in multiple versions.

Videos: Supplementary video material is assigned and available online.

NOTE: These assignments are required! Some quiz and exam questions will reflect information from these materials.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started** information located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself** to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- **Interact online** with instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar
- **Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline**
- **Participate in class activities**

Course Communication

Good communication is vital to successful online courses. If you want an answer to your question or have a problem, this is the way to get me. DO NOT try to communicate with me about course housekeeping or problems through the Discussion! If you do not email me at that address, I cannot guarantee I will receive your message. Please notify me via email if you believe you have encountered a quiz or test question that has been mis-graded or for which there is no clear answer listed.

Technical Problems: Generally, I cannot solve technical problems with the content or settings of the course and have to refer them to FIU Online. Your best bet is to contact them first. If you can't resolve the problem, email me and I will get it fixed. Be patient!

Quizzes

There are 14 quizzes throughout the semester. See the course calendar for the availability dates. The 24-hour availability period for each quiz starts at 12:00 am and ends at 11:55 pm. Each student has one attempt at each quiz. There will be 10 questions, worth 10 points each. The quiz will be different for each student. To take a quiz, click on "Quizzes" under "Course Menu." Once you open the quiz, you will have ten (20) minutes to save all the answers and submit it.

The quizzes will reflect the lectures AND the assigned reading. Please study all course material prior to the quizzes and be prepared. You need to do the quizzes and exams by yourself. Any interaction with others in any form will constitute cheating, and will have serious repercussions. I may not catch everyone who does this, but I sure catch a lot of them.

Exams

Exams are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of the materials covered in lectures and the assigned texts. The midterm (Exam 1) will cover the first half of the course; the final (Exam 2) covers only the second half. You have only 1 attempt to take each exam. Exams will be available for a 1 week period from 12:01 am to 11:55 pm. There will be one hundred (100) questions on each exam. Once you open the exam, you will have 2 hours to complete and submit the exam. Once the time expires, you cannot save any more answers but only can submit it. Failure to take the exam in the allotted time period will result in a zero (0). Exam questions will be taken from the quizzes, but since there are more questions in the database than the number of questions on the exam, you will probably get different questions than you did on the quizzes. Multiple choice questions are randomized across students so no two students will have the same questions.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services (Links to an external site.).

Assessments will be graded immediately with student submission and answers hidden until after the assessment due date

Discussions

You are expected to read all assigned material and be prepared to discuss it intelligently in the Discussion Forum, the main mode of interaction for the course. Anyone may begin a discussion at any time but you are also expected to comment on the week's course material.

Try to engage each other in direct conversation. Say what you think! Post on, things that surprised you, things that annoy you, things you thought were cool. Imagine we're all in class interacting and sharing our ideas. Pick an idea, motif, story, etc., that struck you as particularly interesting and begin a conversation. What we want are conversations that take us beyond the assigned material. You will be graded on your participation and on the quality of your postings. A key factor in your grade will be the extent to which your posts are interesting, original, in-depth, insightful--how much they actually add to the conversation. Another factor is frequency; get on the Forum regularly. Show some signs of life! I will also be looking at how much you engage your classmates, rather than just putting something up there to fill the hole. And please--don't even bother posting, "I liked this," or "I found this interesting," and such--that kind of post will reduce your grade, not help it. Try to make each post at least 100 meaningful words. Original postings should be completed by Friday at 11:59pm and response postings must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm. This ensures that there are enough original postings for other students to respond to during the week.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

<i>Course Requirements</i>	<i>Number of Items</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Quizzes	14	25%
Exams	2	25%
Discussion/Participation	1	25%
Term Paper	1	25%
Total	18	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Range (%)</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Range (%)</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Range (%)</i>
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less