



# Suggested New Syllabus

## H1015: Introduction to Mythology

Instructor: Matthew Ruane  
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The history of mythology has had a tremendous impact on the development of western civilization, providing a moral and ethical compass for the growth of modern society. Throughout much of history, any individual attempting to understand English literature or Western art had to have a firm grounding in classical mythology to understand the allusions referenced by the authors and artists in their works. Yet by the 20th century, there was a dramatic decrease in teaching what used to be known as the "Classics" for the sake of modernity. This change has become so drastic and far reaching that an "educated" person often no longer knows who Deucalion, Daedalus, Antigone, Odin, Loki, Launcelot or Tristram may have been.

This course is an introduction to the history of mythology and mythological themes in western thought. Myths from Greece and Rome will provide the foundation upon which further discussions about the historical development of western mythology are based. The course will also cover the myths of Scandinavia as well as discussing the tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. In some small part, this course hopes to rectify the traditional lack of knowledge about mythology that any educated person should possess. Hopefully, your enthusiastic participation will grant you a greater appreciation for the rich and varied stories and tales at the heart of western mythology.

### **Required Books and Texts:**

Crossley-Holland, *The Norse Myths*  
Mallory, *Le Morte d'Arthur* (Signet Classics version, Keith Baines editor)  
Powell, *Classical Myth*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

### **Recommended Optional Texts:**

These books are suggested additional readings that may aid your term paper as well as providing additional background support but they are not required. There are other recommended readings listed below in the syllabus.  
Anonymous, *Edda*, and *The Saga of the Volsungs*  
Kerr, *Arthurian Companion*  
Lindow, *Norse Mythology*

### **Grading:**

**4 Reading Quizzes:** 10% each (total 40%)

**Midterm Examination:** 30%

**Final Examination:** 30%

Short reading quizzes will be assigned through the semester to facilitate reading and participation. The midterm and final exams are identical in format, consisting of a short essay section in which you will choose to answer **two essays** from a small selection of questions. The final exam is not cumulative. **Grades will not be curved. There will be no make up exams given in this course. If you can not make an exam, you will forfeit that grade. There are very limited exceptions to this rule.**

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL LECTURES.** If you do not attend at least 75% of the required lectures, you will receive an "F" grade for this course.

Any form of academic dishonesty **will** result in an "F" grade for this course. You are responsible for knowing all Florida Tech academic dishonesty policies ([www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf)). Further, I may submit-or require you to submit-any or all written work for this course to an on-line plagiarism detection service. By submitting written work in this course you give me your express consent to: 1) transmit it over the internet, and 2) sublicense it without compensation to any plagiarism detection service on an ongoing basis.

Finally, this course covers a great deal of ground in the fifteen or so weeks assigned to us. This requires that you attend lectures regularly and, more importantly, keep up with the reading assignments. If for some reason you fall behind or you have any problems, do not hesitate to see me during office hours or call me and we will try and set things right. If you wait until it is too late, it usually is.

## **Syllabus**

### **AGE OF THE GODS: GREEK AND ROMAN MYTH**

Week One: Introduction: The Power & Importance of Mythology--Powell, pp. 1-75

Supplemental Readings: Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth*

Week Two: Creation Myth, Part I: The Gods--Powell, pp. 75-109

Week Three: Creation Myth, Part II: Myths of Creation--Powell, pp. 75-138

#### **QUIZ 1**

Week Four: The Greek Gods--Powell, pp. 138-196

Week Five: The Greek Gods--Powell, pp. 196-288

Week Six: Heroes & Legends--Powell, pp. 328-421

#### **QUIZ 2**

Week Seven: Heroes & Legends--Powell, pp. 421-446, 475-511

Week Eight: The Roman Versions of Myth--Powell, pp. 598-633

**MIDTERM:** The midterm will be held in class.

### **AGE OF NORSE MYTH: VIKINGS AND VALHALLA**

Week Nine: Crossley-Holland, pp. XIV-58

Supplemental Readings: Sturleson, *Edda; The Saga of the Volsungs*; Lindow, *Norse Mythology*, pp. 1-46

Week Ten: Crossley-Holland, pp. 59-111

Supplemental Readings: Lindow, pp. 47-190

#### **QUIZ 3**

Week Eleven: Crossley-Holland, pp. 112-178

Supplemental Readings: Lindow, pp. 190-326

### **AGE OF CHIVALRY: ARTHUR AND THE ROUND TABLE**

Week Twelve: Origins of King Arthur: Mallory, pp. xi-94

Supplemental Readings: Chretien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*

Week Thirteen: The Tales of Sir Tristram: Mallory, pp. 170-359

#### **QUIZ 4 & TERM PAPER DUE TODAY**

Week Fourteen: The Grail Quest & Its' Importance: Mallory, pp. 359-431

Supplemental Readings: *The Quest for the Holy Grail*

Week Fifteen: Morte d'Arthur & the Fall of Camelot: Mallory, pp. 432-507

**FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will be held in class during exam week.