

Northwestern CT Community College
Course Syllabus

Course Title: Mythology

Course #: ENG 291

Course Description:

Heroes, monsters, quests, and romance! This course will examine enduring archetypes that run through world mythology. Myths are older than the written word, and they have shaped cultures for centuries. From Beowulf to Homer and Cinderella to Superman, these are the stories that help us make sense of the world. What do these stories have in common? And why do we continue to be drawn to these types of narratives? This course is an exploration of mythology through the ages from ancient monsters to medieval knights and princesses and even our modern day superheroes.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Completion of ENG 102 with a C or better.

Goals:

- To enhance the student's awareness and understanding of human experience through the study and interpretation of mythology.
- To introduce the topics and vocabulary of literary analysis and criticism.
- To provide further practice in critical thinking and writing.
- To further refine the student's skill in expository writing.
- To lead students to independent reading.
- To reinforce students' knowledge of research sources and techniques.

Outcomes: By the end of ENG 291, students will be able to demonstrate:

- Ability to comprehend various myths from ancient and modern texts.
- Acquisition of a vocabulary suited to analyzing and writing about mythology.
- An understanding of archetypes and their role in literature.
- An understanding of how myths from diverse cultures represent the human experience.
- Competence in writing critical essays that utilize this vocabulary on myths. These essays will include, but are not limited to, explication, analysis, comparison and contrast, and response.
- Independent critical thinking directed at the comprehension and criticism/analysis of mythology.
- Ability to find appropriate resource materials and use them to inform their understanding of mythology.