

Course Name: English: Mythology

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

English 9 & 10

WHAT this course is about:

This is a course designed to help you be a better reader, writer, and communicator! You will be challenged as you read myths (human stories) from various cultures, complete a variety of assigned and choice reading interaction tasks and communications activities, and craft assigned academic writings, original writings, and personal narratives. Everything you read and create in this course is selected and designed to get you thinking, facing new challenges, and stretching your skills to grow as communicators and contributors.

WHY take this course:

You will gain confidence in yourself as a reader AND writer. You will develop a stronger understanding of the power of literature. You will gain tools to improve, streamline, and increase your reading and writing processes. You will, ultimately, gain the ability and opportunity to present your work in several possible forms and formats.

By the end of the course, you will compile a collection of reading interaction strategies, understand how to read and analyze myths, and produce a collection of analysis writings and projects, including a personal narrative (perfect for college and scholarship applications). You will also gain confidence in communicating in groups as well as presenting in front of the class.

WHAT you will learn:

- How to identify the purposes and characteristics of myths (human stories)
- How to recognize myth traits, creation traits, human traits, archetypes/motifs in myths
- How to develop theme/thesis statements to aid in analyzing myths
- How mythology provides a necessary foundation for understanding literature
- How myths provide a means for us to understand ourselves
- How myths contain and promote the values, customs, and beliefs of a culture or civilization
- How myths help us understand what it means to be a member of a society and teach us how to live in our world
- How to read and review film effectively and critically
- How to draft, craft, and revise assigned analysis and original writing tasks
- Effective implementation of analysis techniques in your own writing and projects
- Why myths are important and what is unique about myths
- Why storytellers feel the need to write down their experiences
- What these people are trying to explain about themselves, their culture, or the human condition
- Why they chose to tell these stories the way they did
- How the heroic journey is reflected in humanity

WHAT you will do:

- Read myths (human stories) and watch films/videos from various cultures
- Create a personal narrative (memoir) for college, program, and scholarship applications
- Frequent short analysis writes (paragraphs, framed sentences, drafted and in-class essays)
- Read myths in-class for small-group and large group discussions
- Create your own original creation myth
- Master assigned and choice reading and video interaction strategies
- Gain confidence in choosing and producing tasks to demonstrate learning (UDL)
- Assemble a collection of tasks for formal presentations in class
- Compile a portfolio of writings and tasks/projects to take with you for the future

WHERE this could take you:

If you are interested in the humanities, literature, reading, and writing later in a college-level program, or if you are a junior considering taking 12th grade AP Literature & Composition the following school year, this course is for you. This course is also a good starting point if you're interested in learning reading and analysis writing strategies.

Course Outline – Scope and Sequence

Semester One:

- **Quarter 1: What is Mythology and what are Human Stories?**
 - Assigned and choice reading and video interaction strategies
 - Selected tall, folk, and fairy tales
 - Selected legends
 - Exploring personal narrative by reading AND writing in the above genres
 - Selected *Crash Course Philosophy* videos
 - Selected *Crash Course World Mythology* videos

Common Assessment #1: College Application/Personal Reflection Essay

- **Quarter 2: Creation, Trickster, and Greek Mythology**
 - Selected creation stories and videos
 - Selected trickster myths and videos/film
 - Selected *Crash Course World Mythology* videos
 - Selected *Crash Course World History* videos
 - Major texts: Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*
Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*

Common Assessment #2: Original Creation Story

Common Assessment #3: Elements of the Oral Tradition In-class Write

Common Assessment #4: Cinquain Poetry

Semester Two:

- **Quarter 3: Myths from around the world**

- Major texts: Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*
Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*
Robert Fagles' *The Odyssey*
Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf*
- Continuation of Greek mythology
- *The Iliad: The Trojan War* (play)
- Selected *Crash Course Literature* videos
- Allusions to Greek mythology in the modern world
- Selected readings from Japanese mythology
- Selected readings from Norse mythology
- Selected readings from Indian mythology

Common Assessment #5: Trading Card

Common Assessment #6: Facebook Page

Common Assessment #7: *Time* Magazine Cover

Common Assessment #8: Comic Strip

Common Assessment #9: Puppet Gods

- **Quarter 4: More myths from around the world**

- Selected myths from Slavic mythology
- Selected myths from Oceanic mythology
- Selected myths from Chinese mythology
- Selected *Crash Course World Mythology* videos

Common Assessment #10: RAFT Project

Common Assessment #11: Portfolio