



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	ENGL
Course Number:	31
Descriptive Title:	Mythology and Folklore
Division:	Humanities
Department:	English
Course Disciplines:	English
Catalog Description:	This course is a survey of Babylonian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Greek, Hispanic, Germanic, Indian, and other mythologies. Through readings of essays and literature, students explore the similarities and differences of folklore and mythology and identify cultural patterns in the literature.
Prerequisite:	Eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to 7/1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 1992
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
Term:	

	Other:	
	IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities
	Term:	
	Other:	
	CalGETC:	Area 3B, Humanities
	Term:	fall 2025
	Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Understanding of Myth Show understanding of representative myths and folktales in terms of fundamental themes, archetypal images, symbolism, historical and cultural contexts, and critical analysis. SLO #2: Myth & Folklore Differentiation Identify the differences between myth and folklore as well as recognize names, symbols, creatures, and heroes in various myths and folktales. SLO #3: Cultural Difference Identify and assess cultural differences as seen in the styles, subject matter, and level of sophistication of various mythological writings. SLO #4: Mythological Identification Identify mythological allusions found in diverse literatures and assess representative myths in terms of their effectiveness in expressing the relationship of individuals to society and humankind's understanding of the cosmos.	
Course Objectives:	1. Recognize names, symbols, creatures, heroes in various mythologies. 2. Recognize through models the archetypal images from mythology that have permeated literature through the ages, including contemporary literature. 3. Assess representative myths in terms of their effectiveness in expressing the relationship of individuals to society and humankind's understanding of the cosmos. 4. Identify and analyze the differences between myth and folklore. 5. Plan and accomplish research in the field of mythology. 6. Identify and assess cultural differences as seen in the styles, subject matter, and level of sophistication of various mythological writings. 7. Argue, support, and illustrate the phenomenon of recurring patterns, parallels, and themes found in many ancient but diverse mythologies. 8. Describe and explain background information pertaining to various ancient cultures, such as customs, rituals, beliefs, and superstitions. 9. Identify mythological allusions found in diverse literatures.	

	I. Format and strategies for writing about literature (2 hours, lecture) II. Key terms from major theorists on mythology (4 hours, lecture) A. Definition of myth B. Folklore C. Epic D. Oral tradition E. Other terms from theorists such as Jung and Campbell III. Creation myths (4 hours, lecture) A. Babylonian mythology B. Egyptian mythology C. Hebrew mythology D. Indian mythology IV. Flood myths, archetypes, and object myths (9 hours, lecture)
	Major Topics: A. Egyptian B. Mayan C. Indian D. Shoshoni E. Apache V. Apocalyptic myths, dying god myths, hero myths, and trickster gods (8 hours, lecture) A. Revelation B. Ragnarok C. Jesus D. Odin E. Quetzalcoatl F. Osiris G. Buddha H. Parcival

	I. Hiawatha J. Gilgamesh K. Krishna L. Old Man Coyote VI. Folklore (9 hours, lecture) A. Cinderella B. Animal groom and animal bride stories C. Wish fulfillment tales D. Grimm tales VII. Greek mythology (10 hours, lecture) A. The Odyssey B. Greek drama of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes C. Major gods and goddesses VIII. Norse Mythology (8 hours, lecture) A. Poetic Edda B. Prose Edda
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In a four-page written essay, compare and contrast two common folktales or mythological stories paying particular attention to how each story applies the pattern of birth, struggle, and rebirth.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a four-page written essay, analyze the two heroes Shane and Odysseus and identify their cultural differences and similarities. Include conclusions concerning what the two cultures - Ancient Greek and Early American West - expected from and respected in their

	heroes. Further, draw conclusions about why certain traits were important in the two cultures. For example, why is Shane, the prototypical Old West hero, taciturn and shy, whereas Odysseus of Ancient Greece is voluble and boastful?
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Read about the origins, practices and literature of one mythological system not covered in class. Prepare a four page written analysis that explains the reasons for the types of myths developed in that culture.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Thury, Eva M., and Margaret K. Devinney. <i>Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths</i>. 3rd ed. Oxford U. P., 2016. (Discipline Standard) Leeming, David Adams. <i>The World of Myth: An Anthology</i>. 4th ed. Oxford University Press, 2024. Goldman, Sally. <i>The Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmāki: The Complete English Translation</i>. Princeton University Press, 2022. Hamilton, Edith. <i>Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes</i>. Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2017. (Discipline Standard) Lewis, Spence. <i>The Myths of Mexico and Peru</i>. Culturea Publishing, 2024.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	The Epic of Gilgamesh. Any translation. The Odyssey of Homer. Any translation. Selected Tales. Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. Any translation.
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A/C1000 or equivalent

Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	The reading, writing, and critical thinking skills required of students in literature and creative writing courses make it highly unlikely that they can succeed without a prerequisite of eligibility for English 1A/C1000. Moreover, this position has been confirmed in our assessment of these courses' Student Learning Outcomes: faculty members have repeatedly identified the need to strengthen our conditions of enrollment to increase students' chances of success.
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Linda G. Wadleigh
Date:	02/09/1984
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Bruce Peppard
Date:	03/07/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026