

English 2230: Mythology

Fall 2006 / MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m. / 3 credit hours / MC 106

Professor: Dr. Ace G. Pilkington

Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 p.m., TR noon-12:30 p.m., and by appointment

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DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this or other literature classes will be able to do the following:

Enjoy, appreciate, and evaluate representative short stories, poems, plays, novels, and essays.

Think critically and write about the various readings.

Understand and use in literary analysis the aspects of fiction, including plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view.

Understand the use and importance of figurative language, including symbols, metaphors, similes, images in analyzing our readings.

Understand (and use in literary analysis) poetic devices, including figurative language, sound, and meter.

Share critical insights with class members.

GOALS:

English 2230 will introduce you to the main myths of the Greeks, Romans, and Vikings, with additional material from Celtic mythology (King Arthur). In addition, it will provide you with a brief look at the historical backgrounds of these peoples and their myths and some of the ways in which myths have been used in literature and life from Homer to the present. By the time we are finished, you should not only be able to recognize mythological characters in their original settings, but you should also understand the many variations of myth that shape our stories, societies, and thoughts today. Along the way, you should (as you would in any literature class) learn more about yourself and the people around you.

TEXTS:

Ace G. Pilkington's *Mythology: The Text*

Mary Renault's *The King Must Die*

Ovid's *The Metamorphoses* (Trans. Horace Gregory)

Euripides' *Medea* (Trans. Rex Warner)

Homer's *The Odyssey* (Trans. E. V. Rieu)

Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur* (Trans. Keith Baines)

Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End*

GRADES are based on the following:

1. Four tests, each worth one hundred points, which will contain multiple choice and essay questions: The first test will come approximately four weeks into the semester and will cover *The King Must Die*, parts of *The Metamorphoses*, *Medea*, material from *Mythology: The Text*, and our classroom discussions up to that point. The second test will come approximately eight weeks into

the semester and will cover *The Odyssey*, parts of *The Metamorphoses*, material *Mythology: The Text*, and our classroom discussions from the first test to the second. The second test will come approximately eleven weeks into the semester and will cover *Le Morte D'Arthur*, material from *Mythology: The Text*, and our classroom discussions between the second and third tests. The fourth test will come during the time scheduled for our final (Monday, Dec. 11, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.) and will cover *Childhood's End*, material from *Mythology: The Text*, and our classroom discussions between the third and fourth tests.

2. Extra Credit: Reading any of the titles on the extra credit book list, writing a 100 word reaction to it, and discussing it with me is worth 5 points (unless it is marked otherwise). Writing a 500 word paper is worth 5 points for the paper, plus 5 points for the book, and no discussion is necessary. You may earn up to 15 points of extra credit in this way. All extra credit must be in two weeks before the semester ends.

3. Class Enlightenment Essay: Typed, double-spaced, correctly punctuated and so forth, this assignment is worth 100 points. You should keep a record of your experiences and thoughts in this class. It should include something of your classroom experiences, responses to the books you're reading for this class, and perhaps even preparations for the tests. Finally, it should say something about how this class has affected you, what you've learned, and how you've changed (if you have). Everything should relate directly to this class. You should turn in your essay no later than Friday, Nov. 3, 2006. You must include an accurate word count with your essay. Falsifying the word count or making creative margins (or any similar activity) will be considered cheating, and you will get no points for this assignment. An A paper will have at least 2500 words; an A- 2250, a B 2000, a C 1750, a D 1500. Assume that a typed page using 12 point font will have approximately 250 words. However, you must use your word processor to give me an accurate word count. Also, number your pages and include the name of the class.

4. Attendance: Although I expect you to attend class, I will not penalize you for a reasonable number of absences. However, at the point when you miss more than half the class sessions, you also miss passing the class.

NOTE: Test dates will be announced well in advance, and there will always be a review on the class day before the test. If you miss a test, you must make it up within one week of the test date. Failing that (so to speak), your only alternative is to take the optional comprehensive final to replace your missing score.

NUMERICAL-LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENTS

95-100 = A

90-94 = A-

86-89 = B+
83-85 = B
80-82 = B-
76-79 = C+
73-75 = C
70-72 = C-
66-69 = D+
63-65 = D
60-62 = D-
0-59 = F

If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability, or think that you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center, Room 201. The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility based on your professional documentation and determine the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.