

HUMANITIES 13A

College of Alameda (COA)

Humanities 13A – A2 Code:24297
Online Moodle 2.9 Course / 3 units

Spring Semester 2016

SYLLABUS



Instructor: Professor August Flowers

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Course Text(s) and other Learning Tools:

1) *World Mythology (An Anthology of the Great Myths and Epics)* 2nd edition by Donna Rosenberg (NTC Publishing Group) ISBN: 0-8442-5767-2 @ COA bookstore will carry this book.

2) Recommended Text: *Signs & Symbols* by Beryl Dhanjal (out of print) ISBN: 978-0-7858-2403-9

Additional sources: text and videos documentary with Joseph Campbell *The Hero With A Thousand Faces* and *Mythology* by Philip Wilkinson & Neil Philip; *Humanities Through the Arts* by F. David Martin and Lee A. Jacobus and others.

I. Course Description:

Study of myths, symbols, and folklore: Psychological basis underlying myths, symbols, and folktales which has assured their perpetuation and which can lead to a deeper understanding of life. (Peralta College District catalog)

This online course is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to effectively define and to gain understanding of myths and folklore stories, in addition to recognizing the value of symbols of various types and purposes. Students will gain skills in researching and developing their own myths and or folklore stories while including symbols which distinguish them.

A. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Weekly Forum participation
2. Mid -Term Childhood Story & Supporting artwork

3. Research Paper (two story comparison)
 4. Create your story and apply symbols
 5. Bi-weekly Quizzes
 6. Chat Room – discussions
 7. Course Exams
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II. The Specific Learning Objectives (SLO) of this course.

This course is designed to assist students with achieve the following objectives. After successful completion of this course students will:

- A. Acquire foundational knowledge of the roles played by myths and folklores within a cultural setting demonstrating human values.
 - B. Describe and define key theoretical approaches to myths and to folktales.
 - C. Demonstrate intellectual and spiritual maturity. In other words, respect the belief systems of various cultures past and present.
 - D. Develop an awareness of the fundamental mythological content in art of stories.
 - E. Identify persistent symbols and signs as representations of human values.
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III. General curriculum objectives:

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| A. Recognize and understand the role stories such as; myths, fable, and folklore hold within various cultures value system. |
| B. Use effective written communications to demonstrate how symbolism is used to reveal various aspects of a story and its characters. |
| C. Develop and awareness of hidden messages and analyze those message into concrete understanding. |
| D. Recognize and utilize various academic research sources. |

IV. Demonstration of Learning:

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Course assignments, guidelines for completion, due dates, and for assessing student learning for each assignment.	Related course objectives from “II”	Percent of Course Grade
a. Weekly quizzes and lesson reflections.	A, B, C	10%
a. Two exams –mid-term and final (equal weight)	A, C	30%
c. Lesson reflections within Videos and/or movies, and handouts.	B, C	10%
c. Course forums weekly input with topic discussions topic lectures; literature, symbols, folklore, etc.	A, B, C	15%
d. ePortfolio creation of a personal story using concepts found within myths and folklore stories should include symbols.	A, B, C, D	20%
e. Homework research findings of the role of symbols within mythological and folktales within academic research sites and videos and movies.	D, E	15%
Total		100%

B. The Mid-Term Outline:

Share a childhood story. Student will select and create a power-point presentation for a favorite childhood story beyond pre-school. The required outline format is provided for you within the artistic terms attached to this syllabus. As you become familiar with the artistic terms you will better understand how to discuss the arts.

C. The Research Paper: This two story comparison is six (6) pages of college level writing should:

1. Have a cover page - a cover page, example is on Professor’s website.
2. This paper must be typed - on a computer without hand written corrections.
3. College level writing – demonstrates a higher academic level of writing. Your paper must be structured in a format that demonstrates your knowledge of college level writing (seek help with your writing from English instructors or English tutors or the Writing Center in the Learning Resources department can help you.
4. Your research paper must include a ‘work cited’ sheet or bibliography of 5 academic research sources created in the required Modern Language Association (MLA) format. There is a fine tutorial for the MLA training posted on your Professor’s website under additional resources - only 2 research academic internet sources accepted.

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5. An outline of artistic terms for literature is attached – the use of these terms (subject matter, content, artistic form) are essential to the final grade score of your paper.
6. The research term paper is a gathering of documented information on your selected mythical stories; include an art work selection related to the stories; you will analyze, compare, and define the personality traits and character as well as symbols, within the message or content of the story.
7. Include the various symbols related to your stories and the developing roles featured by main characters. For example, are female characters more often responsible for negative or positive changes with the stories? What about the male character; is there most often a lust for power? Select an art work (either visual or musical) to give life to your story. *****

D. Forum Discussions

These forum posts will follow a topic observation and or comment on films, video, and other learning tool. These topics will come from your instructor. Students must submit a substantive response, which mean a well thought-out response. Students should make an effort to stay on topic within the discussion. The best way to do this is to take some time to consider what you want to say. Then before the deadline date and time, write out your thought on the topic then copy and paste your response into the forum.

E. Create Your Story:

The e-Portfolio is what we will call it because you will be pulling it together over the semester. Students will also include symbols within their stories. These stories must be original. As students will explain their efforts to bring the story alive with what they have learnt from the various stories read from our text and others sources.

F Exams: Exams will come from information provided in our required text.

G. Quizzes: These will be short probably less than 20 questions and or statements.

H. Chat Room: This is for those of you who love to kick ideas around and ask questions and to get feed back or just meet people.

ARTISTIC TERMS FOR LITERATURE

Note: The basic medium of literature is spoken language (every artist use some source to create art); regardless of the language spoken, people speak in sentences and phrases and often use one word in place of a complete sentence and use various word choices to make their point.

The Introduction to your topic is a short paragraph, but all paragraphs must be at least three lines.

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- I. Subject Matter: What is the story about or how does it unfold?
 - A. What is the genre of the story or poem? Is it a narrative, if so what type of narrative is it; an episodic, organic, or quest?
 - B. What about the narrator who tells the story, controlling the order of events.
 - C. What is the narrator's focus?

- II. Content: What is the message in your story?
 - A. Subject matter detached by means of artistic form to clarify and make more meaningful and reveals the message.
 - B. What is the mood of the story or poem; comedy, sad, etc.
 - C. What is the overall message?

- III. Artist Form: What ways does the writer deliver this story?
 - A. The organization of the medium (diction / word choices) that clarifies or reveals the subject matter.
 - B. The use of metaphor, symbol, irony
 - C. The use of abstract or concrete images

Conclusion: Here is where you may summarize the story or you may include your personal views.

Note: Usually a brief paragraph would follow to summarize your topic. If this is for a research paper – there is no need to number here because the word conclusion implies an end to the research. As a result, personal views are acceptable here.