Mythology; Beneth (Goldschmidt-Sauer)

Spring, 2012

**Syllabus: spring Term**

This course is divided (more or less) thematically, which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Texts used:**

* World Mythology: An Anthology of the Great Myths and Epics, Rosenberg
* Beowulf (tran. Burton Raffel and/or Seamus Heaney)
* Excerpts from various works, possibly inc.: The Woman Warrior, The Idylls of the King, Stiff, etc.
* Various myths from other sources, poems, etc.
* Independent Reading Book (list forthcoming)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

**1/18-2/03: Course Introduction/Information**

*What is mythology? How much do we know about it?*

Beginning Exercise: **Elvis Lives**

Course policies; overview

Mythological vocabulary; review of literary terms

Introduction to Jungian archetypes

Introduction to text; exercise

Assorted myths as beginning endeavors: Icarus and Theseus: myths in the arts

**Lb. of Flesh due 1/20: "The Sacred Weed"**

**Lb. of Flesh due 1/30: Icarus choice-paper**

**Lb. of Flesh on 2/03: Icarus/Theseus test**

**2/06-2/17: The chicken or the egg?**

*How was our world made?*

Vocabulary: words having to do with beginnings

Text and handouts/grid: Genesis; Norse; Maori; Chinese; Mayan; etc.

INDEPENDENT READING BOOK

**Lbs. of flesh: Creation Myth TEST (2/17)**

**VACATION ASSIGNMENT (2/20-2/24): TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**2/27-3/14 (Wednesday):** *He wahine ke te kainga, he kaka ki te ngahere.*

*Why is Beneth so fascinated with these people?*

Vocabulary: place-names/locations

The Maori of NZ: You learn a *haka* (yeahbaby!)

Film: *Whale-Rider* and perhaps *Once Were Warriors*

**Lbs. of Flesh due 3/14: Testlet on the Maori**

**3/15-3/23: Let's get it on…. (Spring Equinox is 3/21)**

*Love and Fertility*

vocabulary: words having to do with love and lust

Rainer Maria Rilke *(remember him?)* and “Orpheus und Eurydike”

various myths about lovers: Greek (Edith Hamilton); Sioux (handout); Korean; etc.

The Sexy 5: Aphrodite, Venus, Freya, Ishtar, Isis

**Lb. of Flesh: TEST on love myths**

**3/26-3/30: "I'll be your best friend!"**

*What makes a hero?*

Gilgamesh (Rosenberg)

Gilgamesh vocabulary

Babylonian/Sumerian gods/goddesses

Beowulf, etc., refresher

**4/02-4/13 Dharma and …**

*How ought we to behave?*

Vocabulary: Hinduism; caste system, etc.

The Ramayana (Rosenfeld)

Hindu gods/goddesses

**Lb. of Flesh: Hindu deity research/presentation**

**4/16-4/20: The Knights who say "Nee!"**

*Did men really wear tights?*

Arthur (Rosenberg, 418-455)

Vocabulary: Arthurian words

chivalry

Druids/paganism

Film: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*

**April Break: The Hobbbit**

**(pages to be announced)**

**COMPLETE SHEETS; PREPARE FOR READING CHECK UPON RETURN**

**4/23-5/11: We’ve met heroes with hairy backs…How about hairy feet?**

**Vacation (4/23-4/27) and until 5/11)**

*Should we leave the Shire?*

Vocabulary: the Bestiary

The Hobbit

Fanciful creatures; Animal poems (?)

**Lb. of Flesh: Start Life Map?**

**5/14-5/28 (Monday): Guess what?! Angelina Jolie is NOT Grendel’s mother!**

*What makes a Bronze Age-hero?*

Begin Beowulf (Raffel/Heaney)

Vocabulary: from Introduction to text

**Lb. of Flesh: HERO TEST**

**Lb. of Flesh due 5/25: Life-Map**

**5/29-6/13 Biblical stories**

*Why do we believe what we believe?*

Biblical vocabulary (sections I & II)

Handouts: Job; Jonah; David and Goliath; etc.

**Abraham and Isaac**

Film: The Believer/Dogma

**Lb. of flesh due week of 6/13 : paper on The Believer and/or Dogma(?)**

**end of term: rap-up**

 **Your Exam is 6/15?**

**5/02-5/06: Some gals, fer a change**

*Do women have to be "heroines"?!*

Atalanta; the Amazons; Chi Li

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"?

**Lb. of flesh due 5/09: Fortune Cookie Paper**