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ENG 3009-003: Myth and Culture

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**English 3009G
Myth and Culture
Course Outline and Syllabus**

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Phone: 581-6973

Office hours: MWF: 2-3 pm (and by appointment)

Required Texts:

Csapo, Eric *Theories of Mythology* (Oxford Blackwell, 2005)

Barthes, Roland *Mythologies* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1972)

Coursepack of illustrative readings available for copying at CopyX

Course Description:

English 3009G. Myth and Culture. 3009's special status (as a double-count in the Major) seems to express various curriculum committees' perception that its synoptic approach, upper division level, and relevance to multicultural studies gives it a unique claim to count both in General Education and the major. Therefore, expect to be challenged by and to put in a lot of work into this course. We will cover all the major approaches in the 200 year old formal study of myth. These include Comparative Studies, Anthropology, Psychology, Functionalism, Structuralism and Poststructuralism.

Course objectives:

- Reading texts from various perspectives expressing a wide range of cultural assumptions and values and developing abilities to think critically and write analytically about them
- Writing expository papers throughout the semester to show that you have understood each approach
- Writing a long critical paper using one of the approaches to analyze a particular myth of your own choice

Grading:

The course is graded A, B, C, D, F.

Grades on individual assignments will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-90%
C	70-80%
D	60-70%

F 59% and below

Grades for individual assignments will be determined according to the Guidelines for evaluating Writing assignments in EIU's English Department (attached). Be sure to read these guidelines fully – they will help you to understand what is expected of your work.

Keep in mind that class participation is extremely important, commitment to writing and revision based on comments given is vital and your cumulative performance through the semester is as important as your performance in the final paper.

Grades can be improved if revised versions of papers are submitted and the deadline for each revision is one week after the paper has been handed back to you with comments.

In addition, you must turn in all assignments on time to receive credit for the course. If you fail to turn in one or more of your assignments, you will automatically receive an F for the course.

Assignments will be accepted for full credit only at the beginning of class on the day on which they are due (unless in the case of an excused absence – see Attendance Policy below). Late assignments will lose one letter grade for each day they are late.

There is no mid-term or final exam in this course. The final paper is considered the final exam.

Assignments:

Assignments will comprise 6 pieces of writing in all.

5 expository papers will be written on the strengths and weaknesses of each of the approaches we will cover. 1 final, long research paper (with secondary sources and done in MLA or APA or any one format), using any one approach to analyze a particular myth of your choice will count as the Final.

We will devote 3 weeks to the Comparative Method, 2 to Psychology, 2 to Functionalism, 3 to Structuralism 2 to Ideology and one to Roland Barthes' *Mythologies*. The last two weeks will be for conferencing/preparing for the Final.

Writing pieces evaluation:

Paper 1	100
Paper 2	100
Paper3	100

Paper 4	100
Paper5	100
Paper6 (Final)	300
Participation/Revisions/Improvement	200
Total	<hr/> 1000

Electronic Writing Portfolio

This is a writing-intensive course.

Students may submit a document from 3009G as part of the requirements for their Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). If you intend to submit an essay from this course to the EWP, please note that you have to submit the final draft of the essay to me at least two weeks before the Semester ends, so we can both work on it carefully before handing it in.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Final course grades may be lowered by one letter grade for each *unexcused* absence over three. Absences may be excused for illness, religious holidays, personal emergencies, and some university events. You must notify me in advance of absence for reasons other than illness or emergency; if you are ill, you must call/email me before class in order to be excused and produce written proof. Absences will be excused at my discretion. You may make up an assignment only if you were absent on the day the assignment was due, and only if the absence is excused. If you will be absent for a reason other than illness or emergency, you must submit your assignment before your absence. When you have missed class for any reason, you are responsible for asking a classmate what transpired during class.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Plagiarism

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work” – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. The University also uses TURNITIN to detect instances of plagiarism.

Course Schedule

1/9 Syllabus/course intro	11 Comparative Method	13 CM
16 MLK Holiday	18 CM	20 CM
23 CM	25 CM	27 CM
30 Psychology (CM assignment due)	2/1 P	3 P
6 P	8 P	10 P
13 F (P assignment due)	15 F	17 F
20 F	22 F	24 F
27 Structuralism (F assignment due)	3/1 S	3 S

6 S	8 S	10 S
13 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	17 Spring Break
20 S	22 S	24 S
27 Ideology (Structuralism assignment due)	29 I	31 I
4/3 I	5 I	7 I
10 Barthes (Ideology assignment due)	12 B	14 B
17 Conferences on final paper Assignment 2 due	19 Conferences on final paper	21 Conferences on final paper
24 Conferences on final paper	26 Conferences on final paper	28 Final paper due

Exam week May 1-5/Semester closes May 7