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## English IV 2015-16: Mythology

### Course Description

Myths, legends, folktales, and fables are the oldest stories in existence, and they provide the foundations for the morals and values of cultures around the world. They reflect ideas that still affect us today, and are often considered part of the “collective unconscious” that links all human beings. In this course, students will read a number of myths and legends from around the world, and explore the themes, motifs, and archetypes that keep these stories culturally, psychologically, and literarily relevant to this day.

\*\*\*Please note that *most myths are linked, directly or indirectly, to religious beliefs*, and should be respected as such. Our goal in class will not be to choose a position by agreeing or disagreeing with the myths, but rather “the academic aim is to see what the subject means, not to accept or reject it” (Northrop Frye in *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*).

In this class, we will read a wide variety of texts from cultures around the world, including some plays and epic poems. Some reading will be done individually, and some will be done orally in class to reflect the historical role of these texts in their cultures of origin. In addition, we will use a number of films as texts: This means that we won’t just be watching these movies, but will instead be “reading” them and analyzing their relationships to other texts; this will help us to evaluate the role of myth through history and into the modern world.

### Bengal Expectations:

- **Be Respectful:** Your view point is not the only one, and everyone is encouraged to share their opinions and views in a safe and secure environment without fear of ridicule. We all benefit from the ideas and experiences of those around us.
- **Be Responsible:** Show up to class prepared and on time. You are accountable and answerable for your behavior. Class begins when the bell rings.
- **Be Involved:** Contribute each day! You are expected to participate in class discussions and activities.
- **Be a Graduate:** English IV meets one of the 4 English credits (21 HPS Graduation Credits total). You are all expected to put forth your best effort in all aspects of education – you are your community and your actions and behavior are a direct reflection of me, your school, and most importantly YOU!

Electronic devices will be silent and put away during class. If you wish to use your device, ASK first!

### Required Materials:

- **A notebook** or three-ring binder in which you can keep your notes organized and store handouts
- **Pencils, or black or blue pens** (please do not write in bright-colored ink)
- One or two **colored pens** for correcting (any color other than black or blue is ok)

## Policies

### Grading:

Grade Scale: 100 – 90% = A, 89 – 80% = B, 79 – 70% = C, 69 – 60% = D, Below 59 % = F

Grades will be calculated based on total points, with larger assignments, such as Significant Writes, being worth the most points, and smaller daily assignments, such as journals and bell ringers, being worth fewer.

### Significant Writes:

**Plagiarism:** \*\*\*Students are responsible for academic honesty: **Plagiarized papers will receive a grade of ZERO** on the first offense, with no opportunity to revise, and will be reported to school administration thereafter for disciplinary action.\*\*\* Thanks to TurnItIn, students will be able to see whether any of their writing is flagged as quoted material, and if so, to add correct citations and revise their essays before the due date. However, students and parents are also advised to review the definition of plagiarism in the student handbook, or talk to me if you have any questions about this.

**Revisions:** Significant writes receiving less than 90% may be revised until the end of the quarter during which they were due. Students must print the previous draft from TurnItIn (with teacher comments), attach the new revision to the front, and turn in to the make-up work basket.

**Late Work and Make-Up Work:** “Make-up” work is work completed late due to an excused absence. “Late” work was not turned in on time, but is not accounted for by an excused absence.

**Make-Up:** HHS school policy will determine the number of days available for turning in make-up work ( $x+1$  where  $x$ = number of days absent). You are responsible for checking the website and inquiring about what work needs to be completed, and **all make-up work MUST be labeled with “Make-up” and the dates you were absent.** Discussions may be made up on TurnItIn.com. In the case that you miss a quiz or a presentation, you must set a date and time to make it up within one week of returning.

**Late:** Late essays and homework assignments may be turned in for 50% of the score they would otherwise get (ex: if your paper would have gotten 70/100 if turned in on time, that same paper will get 35/100 if turned in late). Tests, quizzes, discussions, and other in-class work may not be done late. However, if you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please contact me (e-mail is usually best) to discuss appropriate accommodations.

### Websites:

- **Clark.Bengalenglish.org:**

This is my classroom website. It contains links to all the other websites mentioned here, as well as information about each of my classes. You may access notes and handouts from class, the Google Calendar of daily assignments, bell ringers, journal prompts, etc. I also occasionally post announcements and updates.

- **TurnItIn.com:**

I use *TurnItIn*, a Digital Assessment Suite from iParadigms, LLC, to help my students learn how to properly cite sources in their essays. Students submit drafts of their essays to TurnItIn either at HHS or from home. The originality reports generated by TurnItIn show students any portions of their drafts that may need citations. Students then have the advantage of revising and resubmitting their drafts before the due date. My aim is to teach students how to correctly summarize, paraphrase, and quote sources in their writing.

- **Schoology.com:**

This website will be used primarily for online discussions, including makeup discussions.

- **GoogleDrive:**

We will draft and workshop essays on Google Docs, so you will need to create a google account (if you have a g-mail address, then you already have this account).

**Parent/Guardian Survey:**

**Initial** on the lines for the first two items (ONLY if they apply), review the bullet points below, and sign on the lines at the bottom of the page. **This form will be returned to Ms. Clark by \_\_\_\_\_ for her records.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read /reviewed this syllabus with my student and am aware of the expectations and requirements for this class, as well as the course materials. (Note: if your student should not read any of the course texts for any reason, please contact me via e-mail or phone to discuss alternatives. You may review planned texts and activities on [clark.bengalenglish.org](http://clark.bengalenglish.org) under Mythology).

\_\_\_\_\_ My student has access to the internet from home and will be able to use the internet resources described in this syllabus. (This information is for my records and will help me to work with each student's individual needs).

- If I need to contact you or your student at any time throughout the year, I will look to school records for contact information. If you prefer a particular method of communication (phone call, e-mail, or text), if your contact information is different from what is on file with the office, or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to *write me a note on the back of this form*.
- Please feel free to visit [clark.bengalenglish.org](http://clark.bengalenglish.org) to review course texts. If you have questions or concerns about any course content, please feel free to contact me. Alternate assignments may be possible if you feel your student should not read one of the course texts.
- You may also contact me via e-mail at [jlark@helenaschools.org](mailto:jlark@helenaschools.org), or by phone at 324-2303.

**Please sign to verify that you have reviewed this syllabus.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**\*\*Return this page ONLY to Ms. Clark. Keep the Syllabus in your class notes\*\***