

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

WORLD MYTHOLOGY

GRADES 9-12

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course details the myths and cultures of the world. Students will study the myths thematically, thus tying the human condition and similarities to ancient and contemporary pieces of literature. Students will also gain insight to the literary impact of myths on our contemporary world of writing. This course offers an opportunity for students to discover diversity. Also, students have opportunity to complete several independent projects to expand their connection to the world of mythology.

STUDY SKILLS:

- Time management/prioritizing assigned tasks
- Preparation for assessments and exams
- Completion and submission of projects
- Online mobility

1. INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY

- Identify and recognize that myths are the oldest stories and were/are passed down orally as well as through writing.
- Evaluate the integration of folktale characteristics into the mythology genre.
- Identify and analyze the use of the four main categories that contribute to the classification of mythology.
- Discern the different characteristics of myths, folktales and epics.
- Recognize and appreciate the importance of the writing process and how it has contributed to the recollection of personal and societal values.
- Examine the matriarchal society and its impact on the development of modern day literature.

2. CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

- Distinguish motif, theme, moral and archetype in a written or oral piece.
- Identify and analyze the use of three universal themes in mythology: the relationship between men and women, the relationship between parents and children, the conduct and meaning of life.
- Recognize the pattern of Carl Jung's Collective Unconscious Theory as a thread throughout mythology.
- Connect cultural customs to the mores and myths of the areas of the world.

3. HERO/ANTI-HERO

- Analyze the purposes for the inclusion of heroes and anti-heroes in literature.
- Distinguish and analyze the Machiavellian hero and what role it plays in mythology.
- Identify, analyze and evaluate the specific characteristics of heroes, anti-heroes, tragic heroes and Machiavellian heroes.
- Identify, analyze and interpret the use of the literary term foil in mythologies of the world.
- Critique and dissect the impact of Tolkien on the world of mythology.

4. INDEPENDENT READING PROJECT

- Identify, analyze and interpret mythology's effects on the global community.
- Incorporate the use of the writing process and documentation into a piece for personal enjoyment/interest.
- Reflect and analyze the writing process while utilizing avenue of support and positive criticism.
- Analyze and strengthen personal strengths and weaknesses in the following literacies: reading, cognitive and technological.
- Identify time management benchmarks and self-progress checks while developing a published project.

5. POP CULTURE & MONOMYTH CYCLE

- Identify, interpret, cite and analyze specific instances when Joseph Campbell's theory of the Monomyth applied to different global stories.
- Examine Jung's Collective Unconscious and the Joseph Campbell's Monomyth in written and film versions of literature.

- Distinguish the microcosm and macrocosm in texts.
- Evaluate and research the impact the monomyth categories on modern day literature.
- Identify the direct relationship between monomyth cycle and pop culture.
- Recognize the similarities and differences of the monomyth in relation to the present and past stories of the globe.

MATERIALS:

Textbook:

Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology, An Anthology of the Great Myths and Epics*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill, 2006. Print.

Novels:

Tolkien, J.R.R., *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994. Print.

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