

Syllabus for Spring, 2003
World Mythology
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*INDICATES CHOICES OF ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Parallel Stories

Jan. 17 "Coming of Stories" (Seneca--audio tape)

"The First Storytellers" (video)

"Four Parallel Stories" (text)

Groups assigned on Archetypes and Regions

Assignments for Week 2

Read Bierlein "An Introduction" & "Beginnings--The Creation Myths"

Work on notebooks

*Design lesson on parallel stories

Week 2 Beginnings

Jan. 24 Cinderella stories (follow up of parallel stories)

Share lessons

Creation stories

"The Meaning of Myth" (video)

Assignments for Week 3

Read "The Earliest Times" & "The Flood Myths" sections of Bierlein

Work on notebooks

*Design lesson on creation myths

Week 3 Explanations and orderings

Jan. 31 Share lessons

"Cedna" (Inuit--audio tape)

Reflections on Explanations & Science (moly/Athena)

"The Coming of Death" (Blackfeet--audio tape)

Archetypes and Rituals of Passage

"The Hero's Journey"

Assignments for Week 4

Watch LadyHawke or Princess Bride/analyze archetypes

Work on notebooks

*Design lesson on explanation myths

Week 4 Love and Archetypes

Feb. 7 Share archetype analyses from films

"Love and the Goddess"

"Tales of Love" from Bierlein

Assignments for Week 5

Read Bierlein section on morality tales

Work on notebooks--due Week 6

Week 5 Morality & Religion

Feb. 14 Lessons from folk tales: "Morality Tales from Myths"

Parables and Fables

The Five Great Living World Religions

Assign epic heroes for research--

Siegfried, Rama, Odysseus, Arthur, Moses

Assignments for Week 6

Read Bierlein sections

"Journey to the Underworld and the Path of Death" &

"The End--Visions of the Apocalypse"

Complete notebooks--due Week 6

Week 6 Apocalypse and Peace

Feb. 21 "Masks of Eternity" (video)

"The End--Visions of the Apocalypse"

Group story of the end of things and afterlife

Explain mask project

Assignments for Week 7

Read Bierlein section "Some Brief Myths of the Hero"

Prepare presentation on assigned hero

Week 7 Heroes: The Great World Epics and Others

Feb. 28 Share notebooks

"Sacrifice and Bliss"

Reports on Siegfried, Rama, Odysseus, Arthur, Moses/Arjuna

Theseus/Beowulf/Hou Yi/Gilgamesh/Achilles

Assignments for Week 7

Read Bierlein--"The Journey to the Underworld
and the Path of Death"

Work on masks

Week 8 Masking and Transformation

Mar. 7 Share masks

Parting reflections on archetypes

and the hero's journey (essay exam)
Love affair with teaching and living
Grade Breakdown

Participation (promptness and attendance/
fulfillment of homework assignments/
participation in class activities/includes design of
one of three lessons for teaching mythology) 30%

Notebook on Archetype or World Region 50%

Mask 15%

Final Essay Reflection Paper 5%