



Mythology, 3-4 Course Syllabus

Students read, discuss, interpret, and write about ancient Greek and Roman myths. The mythic periods that students learn about include origin myths, the age of gods, the age of gods and mortals, and the heroic age. Students also learn about a range of modern interpretations of, and theories about ancient myths, and become aware of the pervasive influence of ancient myths on modern culture. The final project is a class anthology of student written ancient and contemporary myths.

What We'll Write: Daily Writing Warm-Ups, Ancient Myths, Contemporary Myths, Reactions to Myths, Illustrated Scenes

What We'll Learn: The best of Greco-Roman mythology and its relevance in today's world.

Day 1: After an introduction to the class, students will begin an introduction to mythology, giving their thoughts on the subject while also reading a general overview of the topic. They will compare and contrast their thoughts about mythology to the ideas presented in the general overview. They will write their first myth: an origin story for a natural phenomenon.

Day 2: Students will be introduced to the Greco-Roman gods. Each student will select a god on whom to present for the class. Students will assume the identity of the god and give the report in the first-person. Class time will be given for preparation and discussion.

Day 3: Students will read about and discuss Greco-Roman myths regarding the creation of the world. They will also be introduced to classic foundational myths, such as that of Io, Narcissus, and Echo. Students will write their own myth about the creation of the world, utilizing elements from at least one of the myths read in class.

Day 4: Students will learn the classic myths of Cupid & Psyche and Pyramus & Thisbe. The class will split into two (one group with each teacher) to write plays about Pyramus & Thisbe. Each group will perform their play for the other group.

Day 5: Students will learn the myth of Orpheus & Eurydice. They will begin work on the classic myth of Jason and The Golden Fleece. Students will create their own series of challenges to attain a goal. They can be simple, but with important rules (as in Orpheus and Eurydice) or complex (as in Jason and the Golden Fleece).

Day 6: Students will finish their work on Jason and The Golden Fleece. They will then learn the myth of Pegasus. Class discussion will center on the concept of a mythic hero, and students will compare mythic heroes to contemporary heroes, as well as comparing the myths we have read thus far. The class will create a list of heroic qualities.

Day 7: Students will learn the myths of the heroes Perseus, Theseus, and Hercules. Students will then begin work on the Trojan War.

Day 8: Students will conclude work on the *Illiad* and the Trojan War. They will write about the characters they've met. They will then begin work on The Fall of Troy. Class discussion will center on the portrayal of war in Greek mythology. Afterward, students will learn about Odysseus.

Day 9: Students will learn about myths from other cultures, doing work on Middle Eastern, Chinese, African, Mayan, and Norse myths.

Day 10: Final discussion will tie all of the themes of the course together. Students will discuss what they have learned about mythology and its relevance to modern life. Students will write a myth explaining something that has occurred in their own lives. The latter half of the class will be devoted to constructing the class anthology of student writing.