

### Basic Course Information

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|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Semester:         | <b>Spring 2026</b>            | Instructor Name:    | <b>Dr. Michael Heumann</b>   |
| Course Title & #: | <b>English/Humanities 226</b> | Email:              | <b>michael.heumann@imperial.edu</b>                                  |
| CRN #:            | <b>20405/20449</b>            | Webpage (optional): | <b>imperial.instructure.com</b>                                      |
| Classroom:        | <b>2751</b>                   | Office #:           | <b>2780</b>  |
| Class Dates:      | <b>18 Feb – 10 June 2026</b>  | Office Hours:       | <b><i>Mon, Tu &amp; Th 7-8 PM (Online),<br/>Wed 4:30-5:30 PM</i></b> |
| Class Days:       | <b>Wednesdays</b>             | Office Phone #:     | <b>760-355-6553</b>  |
| Class Times:      | <b>6:00-9:10 PM</b>           | Emergency Contact:  | <b>760-355-6337</b>  |
| Units:            | <b>3.0</b>                    | Class Format:       | <b>Face-to-Face</b>  |

### Course Description

Comparative themes and figures from various mythologies of the world. Interpretation of myths; their influence on art, culture, and history. (CSU/UC)

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Show a broad understanding of common structures and themes found in mythological texts from around the world.
2. Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics.
3. Access and interpret literary texts via various sources (drawn from Internet, library catalogue, and electronic databases); and evaluate publishers/authors.
4. Analyze myths from different historic periods and different cultures.

### Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between characteristics of oral and written traditions.
2. Evaluate traditional and contemporary texts for the functions of myth.
3. Analyze traditional and contemporary texts for mythic archetypes.
4. Evaluate a literary text for the elements of the hero's journey.
5. Assess the transformation of hero and society.
6. Examine common myths from around the world, including the sacred masculine and sacred feminine, the trickster, and the myths of sacred places.

7. Examine liminal events and situations, assessing the effect of these events and situations.
8. Compose essays and other written responses that evaluate and analyze mythic texts.

### Textbooks & Other Resources

- [The Mythology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained](#). DK/Penguin Random House, 2021.
- [Homer. The Odyssey](#). Translated by Michael Heumann, 2025. A PDF copy will be available on Canvas, but ebook and print versions are available on Amazon.
- [Homer. The Iliad](#). Translated by Michael Heumann, 2025. A PDF copy will be available on Canvas, but ebook and print versions are available on Amazon.

### Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

1. Attend every class session. Any student who misses the first class will be dropped. Students may be dropped at instructor discretion if they miss more than a week of class hours continuously. Please make arrangements with the instructor or a fellow student to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason.
2. Each outside class assignment will be completed before the designated class in which it is due. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. There are no make-ups for in-class assignments—including discussions, weekly assignments, and exams.
4. You are responsible for keeping track of your class grade average and the drop deadline.
5. Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

| Graded Assignments     | % of Total Grade |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Reading Questions      | 20               |
| In-Class/Participation | 15               |
| Midterm                | 20               |
| Research Project       | 25               |
| Final Exam             | 20               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>100</b>       |

**Reading Questions:** Each week, I will post questions related to that week's reading. These will be due in Canvas prior to class, but you should also bring either a print or digital copy of your answers to class to use during class discussion.

**In-class/Participation:** This is any work that is done in class (either written down or as part of a group or class discussion).

**Midterm:** The midterm will take place during Week 7. The exam will be in-class and will consist of two parts: a short answer part that will give you a chance to demonstrate your understanding of the material we have covered up to that point in class and an essay part that will require you to go into detail about one or more key aspects of mythology.

**Research Project:** The major assignment you will complete this semester will be a research project that will test your knowledge and understanding of mythology from around the world. For this project, you will be able to pick from four different assignments:

- A. Pick a non-European primary source (the works that our main textbook used to compile their retellings of the works from outside Europe) and write an introduction/overview of the source.
- B. Pick a modern adaptation of a traditional myth and write an essay comparing the two versions of the myth to one another.
- C. Pick an archetype from Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey and write an essay comparing different versions of this archetype from both traditional myths and modern stories (including film/TV).
- D. Take a traditional myth from our textbook and create a new, modern version of this myth. In addition to creating this new myth, you will be required to write a brief analysis explaining how you went about adapting the older myth.

## Course Policies

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).

- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### Academic Honesty

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

### Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance. We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

### Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at [finaid@imperial.edu](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

### IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

| Week                     | Class Dates | Topic & Reading   | Major Assignments |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 1                        | Feb 18      | Introduction I, "What is Mythology?"  |                   |
| 2                        | Feb 25      | Introduction II, "The Who's and Why's of Mythology"<br><i>The Iliad</i> , books 1, 9, 16                      |                   |
| 3                        | March 4     | <i>The Iliad</i> , books 22 and 24<br>Ancient Greece: <i>The Mythology Book (TMB)</i> , pp 16-35              |                   |
| 4                        | March 11    | <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 9-12<br>Ancient Greece: <i>TMB</i> , pp 36-61                                      |                   |
| 5                        | March 18    | Ancient Greece: <i>TMB</i> , pp 62-91<br>Rome: <i>TMB</i> , pp 94-125   |                   |
| 6                        | March 25    | Celtic & Europe: <i>TMB</i> , pp 128-177  |                   |
| 7                        | April 1     | Midterm   | Midterm           |
| Spring Break: April 6-10 |             |   |                   |
| 8                        | April 15    | Africa part 1 (Egypt): <i>TMB</i> , pp 264-283  |                   |
| 9                        | April 22    | Africa part 2: <i>TMB</i> , pp 284-297  |                   |
| 10                       | April 29    | Asia part 1 (Mesopotamia): <i>TMB</i> , pp 180-199  |                   |
| 11                       | May 6       | Asia part 2 (India and China): <i>TMB</i> , pp 200-219  |                   |
| 12                       | May 13      | Asia part 3 (Japan and Korea): <i>TMB</i> , pp 220-231<br>Oceania part 1 (Australia): <i>TMB</i> , pp 300-309 |                   |
| 13                       | May 20      | Americas pt 1: <i>TMB</i> , pp 234-261  |                   |
| 14                       | May 27      | Americas pt 2: <i>TMB</i> , pp 234-261<br>Oceania part 2: <i>TMB</i> , pp 310-333                             |                   |
| 15                       | June 3      | TBA   | Projects Due      |
| 16                       | June 10     | Final Exam  | Final             |

\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*