In this class we will read myths from several different cultures, retelling of those same myths in different texts, times, and (sometimes) cultures.

We will also engage secondary literature on myths, myth making, and mythology more generally. Our aim in reading the scholarly literature will be to inform our readings of the primary myths and understand the act of myth making more generally.

The student should set the following goals for their enrollment in this class: 1) to acquire a basic knowledge of key narratives in the myths we read; 2) to understand how myths grow and change over time and space; 3) to engage the process of myth making in the myths we read and the myths we will create in class; 4) to develop the ability to think both empathetically and critically about myth; 5) to develop the ability to convey that understanding in writing.

TEXTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Four Theories of Myth in Twentieth-Century History: Cassirer, Eliade, Lévi-Strauss and Malinowski, Ivan Strenski
Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal, Christopher Moore
The Other Gospels: Non-Canonical Gospel Texts, Ron Cameron
The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha
Book of Genesis on-line: http://eawc.evansville.edu/anthology/genesis.htm
Bible Gateway: http://bible.gospelcom.net/cgi-bin/bible
The Ramayana, R. K. Narayan
Ramayan 3392 A.D.
The Rig Veda: An Anthology, Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty

Maybes:

Other Class Readings are included in a Course Packet available at Paradigm Copy Center and are available on Blackboard.
All Bonus Readings are available on the Blackboard page for this class.
**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION** are crucial to your success in this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You will be allowed three absences throughout the semester. Any absences in excess of this will directly affect your grade. You will be expected not only to have read all assigned readings by the class period, but also to have reflected upon them. Participation can be as easy as asking for clarification on a concept, or as challenging as trying to engage the instructor directly on the relevance of the material to your everyday life. Participation is the best way to ensure you understand the material, and that is the best way to ensure you do well in the class.

There will be one **Short Quiz**, which will assess your knowledge of a smaller section of the course. The quiz will be composed of multiple choice and short answer questions. This will be the best indicator for how well you are absorbing the material, and how well you will do on the exams and essays. The Short Quiz will be on September 18th.

**Essay One** will give you the opportunity to develop the ability to express the ideas you have learned in class in writing. This assignment is to be two pages in length. (Two normal size sheets with default Word margins with 12 pt font.) You will be able to select topics from a list provided by the instructor early in the semester. Essay One will be due by 5:00 p.m. on October 14th.

The **Mid-Term Examination** will assess your knowledge of the material covered in the first half of the class. The Exam will be mainly short answer with one or two short essays. The Mid-Term Exam will be on October 27th.

In **Essay Two** you will need to demonstrate your ability to present an argument. This assignment is five pages in length. (Five normal size sheets with default Word margins with 12 pt font.) Essay Two will be due at the beginning of class on December 1st.

The **Final Examination** will assess your knowledge of all the material covered in class. The Exam will be mainly short answer with one or two short essays.

The **Bonus Readings** present an opportunity for you to gain exposure to more material than I was able to fit into the Class Readings. Additionally, each Bonus Reading gives you the possibility of extra credit. In exchange for a one page summary of the contents and primary argument of the author—which *must demonstrate that you read and understood*, to some degree, the essay—one percentage point will be added to your final grade. Thus if you do all ten essays, your grade will be raised by a full letter grade. Your one page summary will be due by the beginning of class on Monday of the following week.

Various aspects of performance will be weighted as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and Class Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>Mid-Term Examination</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Essay Two</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay One</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICIES**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**
“Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University … Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

‘Scholastic dishonesty’ includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without
the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.” (From UT's General Information catalog, Appendix C, Sec. 11-802)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Faculty Council's Educational Policy Committee states, "Providing a quality educational experience for all students includes adapting the instructional environment to accommodate the educational needs of students with information about Services for Students with Disabilities through the course syllabus."

At the beginning of the semester, students should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office (471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY), which will prepare an appropriate letter to the instructor to guide you.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:
The UT General Information catalog for 2005-2006 states that "A student who is absent from a class or examination for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence" (p. 85). Notice must be given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One:
(Aug. 30): Introduction
(Sept. 1): Introduction to the Study of Myth
  Strenski, Chapters 1 and 2

Week Two:
(Sept. 4): Labor Day Holiday (No Class)
(Sept. 6): Study of Myth (continued)
  Strenski, Chapter 2
(Sept. 8): Study of Myth (continued)
  Strenski, Chapter 3

Week Three:
(Sept. 11): Study of Myth (continued)
  Strenski, Chapter 4 and 5
(Sept. 13): Study of Myth (continued)
  Strenski, Chapter 6 and 7
(Sept. 15): Study of Myth (continued)

Week Four:  (Short Quiz on September 20th)
(Sept. 18): Study of Myth (concluded)
  Strenski, Chapter 8
(Sept. 20): Creation Myths
  Selections from the Rg Veda, Upaniṣads
(Sept. 22): Creation Myth (continued)
  Selections from Manu and the Purāṇas

Week Five:
(Sept. 25): Creation Myth (continued)
  Selections from the Pāli Canon (parodies of Brahmā)
(Sept. 27): Creation Myth (continued)
  Genesis, Story of Lilith
(Sept. 29): Supermen in Myth: Christ
  Gospels, Non-Canonical Gospels

Week Six:
(Oct. 2): Supermen in Myth: Christ (continued)

Gospels
Cameron’s The Other Gospels

(Oct. 4): Supermen in Myth: The Buddha
Selections from the Pāli Canon

(Oct. 6): Supermen in Myth: The Buddha (continued)

Week Seven: (Essay One October 13th)
(Oct. 9): Supermen in Myth: Rāma
Rāmāyaṇa (shortened prose version)
(Oct. 11): Supermen in Myth: Rāma (continued)
(Oct. 13): Supermen Myth Reimagined: Christ (continued)
Moore’s Lamb, Christ in Art and Modern imagination (film clips)

Week Eight:
(Oct. 16): Supermen Myth Reimagined: Christ (continued)
(Oct. 18): Supermen Myth Reimagined: The Buddha
Purānic vision of Buddha, Mahāyāna
(Oct. 20): Supermen Myth Reimagined: The Buddha (continued)

Week Nine:
(Oct. 23): Supermen Myth Reimagined: Rāma
ACK Comics, TV series (clips), Ramayan 3392 A.D.
(Oct. 25): Supermen Myth Reimagined: Rāma (continued)

(Oct. 27): Mid-Term

Week Ten:
(Oct. 30): Other Supermen: Zarathusthra
Selections
(Nov. 1): Other Supermen: Muhammad
Selections
(Nov. 3): Other Supermen: Guru Nanak
Selections

Alternate Week Ten:
(Oct. 30): Beyond Supermen: Alternate Rāmāyaṇas

(Nov. 1): Beyond Supermen: Rāmiliṇī film Rāmiliṇī

(Nov. 3): Beyond Supermen: Sītā


Week Eleven:
(Nov. 6): Hell in Myth
Dante’s Inferno

(Nov. 8): Hell in Myth (continued)
Arda Viraf

(Nov. 10): Hell in Myth (continued)
Selections from the Purāṇas

Week Twelve:
(Nov. 13): Hell in Myth (continued)


(Nov. 15): Going to Hell in Myth

(Nov. 17): Going to Hell and Coming back in Myth

Week Thirteen:
(Nov. 20): Going to Hell and Coming back in Myth (continued)
Apocryphal stuff on Jesus going to hell
(Nov. 22): Going to Heaven in Myth
  Dante’s Paradisio
(Nov. 23): Thanksgiving (No Class)

Week Fourteen:  **(Essay Two Due December 1st.)**
(Nov. 27): Heaven and Hell in Modern Myth
  Heilein, *Job: a Comedy of Justice*
(Nov. 29): God in Modern Myth
  *Dogma*
(Dec. 1): Jesus in Modern Myth
  Selection from various films about Christ

Week Fifteen:
  Le Guin Ursala K. *Myth and Archtype in Science Fiction.* Writer’s
(Dec. 6): Myth Making: Group Work
(Dec. 8): Review For Final