Instructor Information

Instructor: Jonathan Purkiss-Jones
Office: CHARTS 450
Mailbox: The School of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CHARTS)
Hours: MW (8-9 and 12:30-2:30) / TR (9:30-10:30 and 12:30-1:30)
Phone: 501-812-2794
Email: jpurkiss@uaptc.edu
Remind: Text the message @mythpurk to the number 81010 on your smartphone

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair: Logan Oliver 501-812-2378 loliver@uaptc.edu
Dean: Christy Oberste 501-812-2869 coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

This course meets online.

Catalog Description

3 Credit Hours (3 hours lecture per week)

This course provides a general overview of mythology and its relationship to ancient and contemporary cultures. It covers the different purposes and types of myths; the development of myths and mythological characters; the primary characteristics of deities and heroes in myth.

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 1311 and ENGL 1312 (English Composition I and II) with a grade of “C” or better in ENGL 1312.

Course Materials


Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy
For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

**Discipline Learning Outcomes**

The English discipline in the Department of Languages and Communication, consistent with the College’s mission and the objectives of the School of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting the following learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze different contexts and audiences and then to act on that analysis in comprehending and creating texts.

2. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, synthesize, interpret, compose, and evaluate ideas, information, situations, and texts.

3. Students will use multiple strategies to conceptualize, develop, and finalize projects and adapt their composing processes to different contexts and occasions.

4. Students will develop knowledge of conventions, including linguistic structures such as grammar, punctuation, and spelling as well as citation and documentation, through practice in composing and revising.

5. Students will investigate significant literary and cultural developments as well as the interaction of various literary and cultural traditions and illustrate how literature reflects history, culture, and society.

6. Students will read and analyze texts and identify various techniques, genre characteristics, movements, methods, or themes.

**Student Learning / Course Outcomes**

The student will:

1. Understand significant literary and cultural developments in world civilizations.

2. Understand the interaction of various literary and cultural traditions.

3. Achieve familiarity with enduring expressions of human thought by studying world mythology, including the study of how they function in society and cultures.

4. Complete a significant analytical writing component.

Students will study a variety of myths from around the world with a focus on comparing myths from different cultures in order to determine shared types, themes, and traditions. Students will also learn about the development of myths, their purposes in societies, and the primary characters and character types. This class requires students to read and discuss primary and secondary sources critically, with an awareness of cultural and historical significance and contexts. Students will write a minimum of 10 pages total in analytical assignments that will be divided between a number of shorter responses and at least one longer analytical research essay. Students will demonstrate good scholarship by using the conventions of MLA style and documentation. Midterm/final/unit tests will cover content of selected readings, general factual knowledge of history and culture for each unit, and some interpretation of excerpts from the readings.

**Policies**

**Report a Complaint or Concern**

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college
processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

**UA-PTC Attendance Policy**

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

**Departmental Attendance Policy**

Any student who does not attend class within the first two weeks of class will be considered a “no show” according to the campus attendance policy and will be reported as such and dropped from the class.

Simply logging in to the course does not constitute participation. Examples of participation include, but are not limited to, posting to another student’s blog, submitting an assignment, or taking an assessment.

Regular attendance and participation will be integral to your success in this class. Since it will be an online environment, you will be expected to log into the course regularly (at least two times a week) and read all announcements, lecture notes, and other materials. While a course outline is presented in this syllabus, changes may be made to adjust to the needs of the class as a whole; therefore, it is your responsibility to log on regularly in order to stay up to date to changes and/or additions to the class schedule and assignments.

If you have to miss an excessive number of weeks of class that would negatively affect your grade, you should contact me as soon as possible to alert me to the situation (or have a family member contact me) to make arrangements for assignments and other missed work and provide a time frame to re-establish regular attendance. In this event, you will be expected to also submit proper documentation to me regarding the extenuating circumstances.

I reserve the right to make decisions regarding excessive absences on a case-by-case basis. My decision will take into account the amount of class and/or assignments missed, the nature of the extenuating circumstances, the documentation offered for the absences, the time period in which I was contacted, the time frame to re-establish regular attendance, and overall performance in the class up to that point. All students will be held to the same policies and requirements regarding late work, class participation, types of assignments, and grading criteria as other students, regardless of extenuating circumstances.

**Course Policies**

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: [https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog](https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog)

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Do not cheat or plagiarize. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will automatically be given the grade “F” for the assignment and may be assigned a failing grade for the course as well. Any plagiarized paper will receive a zero and the student may be immediately dropped from the class with a final grade of “F”. “Plagiarism” would be noted on the official drop slip. Any evidence of cheating on exams will be handled in the same manner; students will receive a zero on the exam and may be immediately dropped from the class with a final grade of “F”. “Cheating” would be noted on the official drop slip. I reserve the right to handle incidents of suspected cheating and plagiarism on a case-by-case basis as I see fit.
• Please be respectful on the discussion boards or when commenting on the blog posts of others. All students are expected to be considerate and respectful of others and their opinions. All posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed. Respond to others as you would them to respond to your posts.
  • No messages meant to harass, humiliate, defame, or threaten another student will be tolerated.
  • No messages that contain spam or pornographic images or links will be tolerated.
  • Do not type in all caps. Such posts are hard to read and may be considered yelling.
  • Do not plagiarize your discussion posts. Credit sources when appropriate.

• Please note that I do not tolerate disruptive or rude students. I will listen to any concerns you might have about the course in private; please do not publicly voice them on the discussion boards.

*NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus concerning policy changes at any time during the semester. Students will be notified promptly if changes to the syllabus are made.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to

Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Course requirements | Rough % of final grade
---------------------|-----------------------|
Tests                | 45%                   |
Blog Responses       | 25%                   |
Class Participation  | 10%                   |
Final Paper          | 20%                   |

Assignments

*Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School. English faculty have two weeks to provide feedback and post grades for papers 1,000 words or more.

In an online class, eligibility for Financial Aid is based on student participation. Logging into the course does not constitute participation. For purposes of roster certification, students must complete a gradable attendance artifact.

You will be assessed in this course through the following types of assignments:

• Tests
• Blog Posts
• Class Participation
• The Final Paper
A. Tests (Points variable)

Most of the units have tests that assess your knowledge of the works, reading comprehension, and contextual information. All tests are timed. Make sure to read all reading assignments, including all associated lecture notes, before you attempt to take a unit test.

Instructions for the tests are available under the link for Unit Tests in Unit 1. Please read all instructions before taking unit tests.

B. Blog Posts (10 points each)

You will be required to post to a blog for the class each week throughout the semester. The blog is meant to encourage critical thinking, close reading, and deeper analysis of the assigned reading. Each blog post is worth a possible 10 points. Throughout the semester, I will pose questions in units that you can respond to on the blog (look for the blue links to the blog in each unit). Do not post responses if you have not read the assigned texts.

You will also NOT receive credit if you PLAGIARIZE any post by copying and pasting from the Internet, from my introductory or lecture notes, or copying off another student’s post. I will grade each blog post within a week of its submission. You can view your score on each blog post and my comments on the posts by clicking the My Grades link. Instructions and deadlines for blog posts are available under the link for Blog Posts in Unit 1. Please read all instructions before posting to the blog.

C. Class Participation (5 points for each blog assignment)

In addition to posting to the blogs, you will need to participate with others in the class by commenting on what others have written on their blogs. This is to facilitate class discussion on the texts. For each blog assignment, you will be expected to post a response to another classmate’s blog post in the Comments section below the post. Please be polite when commenting on other students’ posts. Rude or inappropriate comments will be erased and could result in point deductions or even disciplinary action. You will have one week after the deadline of each blog assignment(s) to post a comment for that blog though you are free to also comment on any blog post before its deadline, too. Instructions for class participation are available under the link for Class Participation in Unit 1. Please read all instructions before commenting on the blog.

E. The Final Paper (100 points)

At the end of this course, you will submit a final paper. The paper is an opportunity for me to see if you fully understand the work and have thought critically about what you read. Because of this, the final paper is worth a possible 100 points. You will need to practice good time management and plan ahead to submit paper by the due date listed on the class schedule. Do not wait until the last minute. Further instructions and the deadline for the Final Paper are available in Unit 12. Please read all instructions before beginning work on the Final Paper.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, "The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand."

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.
Plagiarism

It is expected that all writing that you submit in a class is your own original work, and that any sources of information that you consult are fully cited and properly integrated into your writing.

Regardless of intent, any paper that contains any form of plagiarism will earn a 0% for the assignment. Most plagiarism is accidental and results from mishandling of research or inadequate citations. Examples of accidental plagiarism include:

- word-for-word copying from any source without the use of quotation marks;
- failure to completely cite all quoted, summarized, or paraphrased material from a presented source;
- improper paraphrasing (i.e., paraphrased information that retains the grammatical structure and/or vocabulary of the original source).

In the case that any student plagiarizes information with the intent of cheating on a writing assignment, the instructor may choose a more severe penalty at their discretion. Examples of blatant plagiarism include:

- submitting any amount of material from the Internet or another outside source as if it is the student's original composition;
- copying material from a source with no attempt at using quotation marks and/or citation of the source;
- paraphrasing material from a source with no attempt at documentation of the source;
- reuse of material from previous classes without the instructor’s express permission;
- simultaneously using material from another class without the permission of both instructors involved;
- buying papers;
- letting others write part or all of a paper; and
- all other instances in which the student attempts to circumvent creating an original composition for that assignment and/or attempts to deceive the audience about the sources used when composing the assignment.

You should review the information about plagiarism in textbooks and the Academic Integrity Policy in the PTC Student Handbook, as it is your responsibility to demonstrate good scholarship in your writing.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student’s responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog.

http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2
Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

Tentative Course Schedule

In order to successfully pass this course, you will need to complete all units in the course. Everything you need for the course is located in the units, including lecture notes, tests, blog post instructions, and the essay assignment. Each unit is designed to build on the skills and knowledge contained in the unit before it, so you will be expected to take the units in order.

The first two units are designed to prepare you to take the course, including information on how to read texts critically. The first two units consist only of notes and tests. The last units cover how to write your final paper for the course.

The rest of the units are instructional and cover individual stories. Some of these units are further subdivided into multiple parts to compensate for more selections of works. To complete these divided units, you will need to complete each part in order. Don’t worry – detailed instructions are located in each unit.

**Note:** All deadlines in the course are on Thursdays throughout the semester. You will need to plan ahead to meet each week’s deadline. New units will also open on Thursday mornings at 7 a.m. throughout the semester. Once available, units do not close and will stay open until the end of the semester.

The following schedule is a rough guide for you to pace yourself throughout the semester. Some of you may work faster or slower depending on your reading skills. Do not let yourself get behind. This is a general outline of the readings you will do for this class. Please look for specific reading assignments in each unit as well as the lecture notes. The unit’s instructions will list all page numbers as well.
Tuesday, Jan. 16 – Thursday, Jan. 24
  • Units 1 & 2 - Course Introduction and Introduction to Mythology
Friday, Jan. 26 – Thursday, Jan. 31
  • Unit 3 – Egyptian / Babylonian Mythology – Story of Osiris, Isis, and Horus / Enuma elish
Friday, Feb. 2 – Thursday, Feb. 7
  • Unit 4 – Sumerian Mythology - Gilgamesh
Friday, Feb. 9 – Thursday, Feb. 14
  • Unit 5.1 – Greek and Roman Mythology - Part One: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes
Friday, Feb. 16 – Thursday, Feb. 21
  • Unit 5.2 – Greek and Roman Mythology - Part Two: Stories of Love and Adventure
Friday, Feb. 23 – Thursday, Feb. 28
  • Unit 5.3 – Greek and Roman Mythology - Part Three: The Great Heroes before the Trojan War
Friday, Mar. 2 – Thursday, Mar. 7
  • Unit 5.4 – Greek and Roman Mythology - Part Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War
Friday, Mar. 9 – Thursday, Mar. 14
  • Unit 6 – Norse Mythology
Friday, Mar. 16 – Thursday, Mar. 21
  • Spring Break
Friday, Mar. 23 – Thursday, Mar. 28
  • Unit 7 – Hindu Mythology - Ramayana
Friday, Mar. 30 – Thursday, Apr. 4
  • Unit 8 – Far Eastern and Polynesian Mythology
Friday, Apr. 6 – Thursday, Apr. 11
  • Unit 9 – African Mythology
Friday, Apr. 13 – Thursday, Apr. 18
  • Unit 10 – Mesoamerican Mythology
Friday, Apr. 20 – Thursday, Apr. 25
  • Unit 11 - Native American Mythology
Friday, Apr. 27 – Thursday, May 2
  • Unit 12 – The Final Paper – due by midnight on Thursday, May 9

Final Exam Schedule: Thursday, May 9

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.
Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Jonathan Purkiss-Jones' Mythology class at UA-Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

Semester _______________________

Date _________________________

Print name _____________________

Signature ______________________

UA-PTC Email address __________

Telephone ______________________