

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
SEMESTER
LIT 3340: MYTHS, RITUALS AND ARCHETYPES

CREDIT: 3 UNITS

TIME: -

ROOM: N

LECTURER:

OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The broad aim of this course is to improve the students' knowledge and competence with a view to enabling them to meet the necessary requirements for qualifying for a university degree. The course will enable the student to identify and analyse the cardinal unifying principles in literary works spanning a period of more than two thousand years (from classical to modern) and to explore the relationship between oral tradition, contemporary writer and society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course continues the development of writing and reading skills begun in earlier course with emphasis upon detailed study of the ideas contained in literary works and upon analytical and critical writing. The course will introduce students to myths, rituals and archetypes.

The student will:

1. Demonstrate his understanding of the ideas in the works studied.
2. Evaluate those ideas.
3. Demonstrate his/her ability of critical analysis of the works of oral /written literature.
4. Write expository papers about literature studied for a total of 1,000 words during the semester.
5. Write well-developed examination essays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance in class. Students are responsible for accessing material covered in class. A student missing more than 5 lectures without official excuse will receive "F".

Daily reading and homework assignments. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned; late homework will receive half credit.

Class participation. This course will be taught by the lecture method and by discussion; students are expected to have read the material under discussion and to take part actively in the discussion.

Policy on Plagiarism. If a student uses the words or ideas of another in his writing he must cite the source fully and accurately, including title, author, place and date of publication, publisher, and page number. If he uses the exact words of another he must enclose them in quotation marks; changing a word or two here and there does not absolve you of this responsibility. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; any one found guilty of plagiarism will receive an automatic 'F' for the course.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1

Introduction

Myth: definitions, nature and functions

Week 2

Myths of origin; animal ancestors, totemic cults. Time and space in myths.

Week 3

Ancestry cults; role of ancestors in African mythology

Week 4

Myths and tales: interrelations and developments

Week 5

Myths of creation; pantheism and classical mythology

Week 6

Pantheons in classical mythology: Greek, Indian, and Yoruba

Week 7

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 8

Rituals: their interrelations with myth; different types and levels of ritual.

Week 9

Ritual, myth and literature

Week 10

Mythic and legendary figure in Western and Oriental literature

Week 11

Archetype: nature, functions, definition. Archetypes in contemporary Western and Oriental literature

Week 12

Archetypal characters and motifs in modern African literature

Week 13

Revision and oral presentations

Week 14

FINAL EXAMINATION

TEXT-BOOKS AND READING MATERIALS

1. Popular Culture of East Africa (ed. by Taban Lo Liyong)
2. A Current Dictionary
3. Chinua Achebe - Things Fall Apart
4. Reading for LIT 3340

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Critical analysis of myths / rituals
2. Critical analysis of archetypal figure in literature
3. Research paper / Oral presentation

RESEARCH PAPER

Required of all students

1. Using the library
2. Taking notes
3. Organizing papers and writing drafts
4. Preparing final copy

Choose a topic for research based on any relevant material which is available in USIU library for this course. **It must be approved by instructor.**

Read from at least two sources about the chosen work or the author (preferably the work). Single out a facet of the work that your paper will investigate and prove.

Write an analysis of about 10 typed pages covering as many aspects of the work as possible.

Documentation:

Include quotations from the critical sources and the work in body of your theme. You should have a minimum of five quotations and therefore a minimum of five footnotes.

Include a brief bibliography.

Follow the form of quotation which you have been taught at USIU.

Follow the form of quotations, especially lines of poetry, as you were taught in Research Writing.

Format of Paper:

Title page
Thesis statement
Outline (brief)
Body of paper plus conclusion
Bibliography

PAPER MUST BE TYPED

An important part of your writing is having personal conferences with your instructor. Before, after or while writing assignment, please feel free to see me (by appointment before or after the class) about any writing problems you may have

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Lecture, discussions, notes taking, oral presentations, written assignments, learners' involved in discussions, research writing etc.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Attendance & Class participation	10%
2. Research paper / Oral presentation	20%
3. Mid-term examination	20%
4. Final examination	30%
5. Written assignment(s)	20%
Total	<u>100%</u>

FINAL GRADE/GRADING SYSTEM

The final grade will be determined according to the following scale that is a USIU Grading System/Grading yardstick.

A	90 - 100
A-	87 - 89
B+	84 - 86
B	80 - 83
B-	77 - 79
C+	74 - 76
C	70 - 73
C-	67 - 69
D+	64 - 66
D	62 - 63
D-	60 - 61
F	0 - 59

A subjective evaluation of the student's application and improvement will be a deciding factor in determining the final grade in borderline cases.