

Myth and Bible Honors Summer Reading Assignments
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Welcome to Mythology and the Bible as Literature. This course is a challenging year-long honors elective in which we will study a variety of world myths as well as sections of the Hebrew Bible, the Christian New Testament, novels, short stories, poems, and films, in addition to history, culture, and art in order to investigate the archetypes which organize and influence cultural expressions of beliefs. As we identify and analyze these connections, we will come to understand how humans attempt to explain, shape, order, and structure our experience in the world.

This course may be different from previous English courses in that it is sequential and content driven. As such, the summer reading assignments are designed to prepare you for the level of close reading and the number of re-readings of texts that are necessary to achieve success within the course. With the spirit of close reading and precise note taking in mind, you will complete the selection of readings from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* listed below, as well as the entire collection of myths presented in Neil Gaiman's *Norse Mythology*. (ISBN 978-0-393-60909-7)

*You can check out a book from Eng. Dept. in 2035 before Monday 6/21 or purchase your own copy for annotating.

As you read the assigned texts, take original notes, paying particular attention to:

- ☐ plot, including major and minor conflicts
- ☐ characters, including protagonist and antagonist
- ☐ how the narrative delivers cultural values or truths

In your first few weeks back, you will be asked to:

- ☐ Respond to an on-demand writing prompt that focuses on the texts. You will not be given the prompt ahead of time, and you must complete the essay in class. This assessment will be used to determine your current level of thinking and writing.
- ☐ Participate in formal discussions about the texts.

Selections to be read from *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (ISBN 978-0-316-22333-1)

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Part One: The Gods, The Creation, and the Earliest Heroes

- I. The Gods
- II. The Two Great God of Earth
- III. How the World and Mankind Were Created
- IV. The Earliest Heroes

Part Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War

- I. The Trojan War
Prologue: The Judgement of Paris and The Trojan War
- II. The Fall of Troy

Part Five: The Great Families of Mythology

- II. The Royal House of Thebes
Cadmus and His Children
Oedipus
Antigone
The Seven Against Thebes