

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2026	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	LANG230		
Course Title	Myths and Fantasies from Around the World		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	GHIM Wung Cheong	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Language Arts	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	This course explores the foundational myths and narratives that have shaped human cultures across time and cultures, tracing their enduring influence into modern fantasy. We will move from ancient questions of creation, evil, disaster, and the afterlife to examine how these archetypal stories are re-imagined in contemporary literature, film, and media. Through primary sources like the Kojiki, Prose Edda, and the Bible, alongside works from Tolkien and anime, we will analyze how myths function: not as mere "fictions", but as vital frameworks for understanding reality, human nature, and the cosmos. Students will develop critical tools for interpreting narrative, symbol, and genre while considering the persistent human desire for myth-making.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	N/A
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	As part of the iCLA program, by the end of the course, students will acquire (1) high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge; (2) the insight and skill they need to make connections, think critically and explore possibilities; (3) a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams.

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	N/A				
Use of ICT	N/A				
Contents of class preparation and review	Reading assignment, presentation preparation, revision, and research	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Feedback on in-class presentations both inside (verbal) and outside of class (email, etc.)				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation	20%	
in-class presentations summarizing course readings	25%	
Mid-term paper	25%	
Final in-class presentation	30%	

Required Textbook(s)	Selected short readings will be provided. Books: J.R.R. Tolkien, Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (any edition so long as it includes the appendix)
Other Reading Materials/URL	None

Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is one of the most common and serious forms of academic dishonesty, especially in writing courses. In this course, plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the appropriation of material (materials like words, ideas, illustrations, and structure) from another source (book, magazine, internet documents, and even writings of a fellow student), and presenting it as if it is your own work. It means that students who fail to give credit for referring to other source materials are also guilty of plagiarism. A student who is found guilty of plagiarism will be given a serious penalty, such as an automatic F for an assignment or an entire course depending on the nature of his/her act.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	None

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Introduction (This schedule is still tentative. You can take it as a "model" and get an idea of what to expect.)
Class 2	Gods: Hymn to Demeter
Class 3	Genshin Impact
Class 4	Creation of the universe: Genesis, chapters 1 and 2
Class 5	Kojiki, The Birth of the Deities
Class 6	Evil: Genesis, chapter 3
Class 7	Hesiod, Works and Days
Class 8	Disaster: Genesis, chapters 6-9
Class 9	Lord of the Rings Appendix, "The Númenórean Kings" in Annals of the Kings and Rulers

Class 10	Apocalypse: Revelation, chapters 13, 17, 18, 20, and 21
Class 11	Völuspá
Class 12	Afterlife: Kojiki, The Quarrel of Izanagi and Izanami
Class 13	That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (episodes 1-3 of Season 1 of the animated series)
Class 14	Cosmic chaos and trickster gods: Prose Edda (XXXIV and XLIX of Gylfaginning)
Class 15	Kojiki, from "Investiture of the Three Deities" to "The August Expulsion of His-Impetuous-Male-Augustness"
Class 16	Workshop for the Mid-term paper
Class 17	God (again): excerpts from Ludwig Feuerbach, Essence of Christianity
Class 18	excerpts from Ovid, Metamorphoses
Class 19	excerpts from the Kojiki
Class 20	Lord of the Rings (the movies, Fellowship of the Ring and Return of the King)
Class 21	Dune (the movies, Dune: Part One and Part Two)
Class 22	Star Wars (Star Wars: A New Hope and The Phantom Menace)

Class 23	Attack on Titans (episodes 79-81 of the Final Season of the animated series)
Class 24	Oshi no Ko (episode 1 of Season 1 of the animated series)
Class 25	Suzume (movie by the same title, or Suzume no Tojimari)
Class 26	Conclusion
Class 27	Final presentations
Class 28	Final presentations
Class 29	Final presentations
Class 30	Final presentations