

Comparative Mythology

Fall Edition, 2018-2019

Welcome!

Get ready for a challenging but awesome year. I am so excited to get to know you and to help you grow as a reader, writer, editor, and speaker, as well as to prepare you for high school and your life beyond education.

Bring to Class

- Binder or folder
- Stick/Thumb Drive
- Assigned Textbook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Post-it notes or flags

Textbooks

The text for this class is *Introduction to Mythology* by Thury. This is a college level textbook. If you lose it or it becomes damaged, you will be asked to purchase a new book.

There are a ton of handouts for this class, so please make sure your binder is at least 1”

I will also provide you with a copy of our class novel.

However, some people CHOOSE to buy their own copy so that they can keep them for the future and ANNOTATE in them (instead of just using post-it notes).

If you wish to buy, ask your family for a gift, or wait until there's a sale, here's what we plan to read:

- *The Hobbit or There and Back Again an Unexpected Journey* (Tolkien)

Class Rules:

1. **Listen** to the teacher, and ignore others who try to distract you!
2. **Follow directions.** 😊
3. **Keep a positive attitude.** Don't judge a person, book, or assignment too soon.
4. **Paper assignments are due in the first 5 minutes of class in the CORRECT BIN.** I reserve the right to COLLECT or CHECK items during the class if I feel you are not working or are “sharing” too liberally with your tablemates.
5. **Electronic assignments are due on 12 am on the due date.** See me with questions.
6. **Be proactive.** Plan ahead. Do not assume you will get an extension if you ask for one.
7. **Be prepared.** You must have a signed parent note to print, and if you need to print, do it before my class starts!
8. **Ask for help.** I can't help you if you are silent when confused!
9. **Be respectful.** Please do not have side conversations.

Using Tech:

We will use the following websites/software regularly on school devices:

- Kahoot
- Google Apps (Classroom, Docs, Slides, and Drive)
- Padlet
- Edmodo

Remember to follow school policies for technology use and to keep track of your own usernames and passwords! If you forget your login, I might not be able to help!

Your Binder/Folder:

The system you use to organize your binder/folders is up to you, BUT you must have safe places to keep the following:

- Final drafts of writing
- Study Guides/ notes
- Current unit papers
- Papers to save for exams

Getting Help

There's more than one way!

1. **Before school:** Ask for an appointment to meet in room B-130 at 7:15 am.
2. **At school:** During Enrichment on Day 3 or you may make an appointment for an alternate Enrichment with that teacher's permission.
3. **After School:** Ask for an appointment to meet in room B-130 at 2:35 pm.
4. **Email:** Email me before 9:00pm.

FAQ's

Q: Can I throw this paper out?

A: NO! You never know if you'll need that paper for a midterm, final exam, high school, or report card. Ask me before you throw ANYTHING away.

Q: Do we have homework tonight?

A: NO! However, you will have practice work that you will be asked to complete for each piece of literature studied. This may be completed before you go “home” but will be due by the due date given and will be collected.

Q: What if I disagree with, or have a question about, one of my grades?

A: The BEST option is to chat with me in person, when we can BOTH look at an assignment and discuss it. If necessary, you are welcome to send me a detailed email about the concern.

Contact Mrs. Palumbo

kpalumbo@palmerton.org
www.mrspalumbosenglishclass.weebly.com

Please understand that I cannot guarantee email responses after 9:00pm at night. Thank you.

Class syllabus Continued

Absence Policy

If you miss a class for any reason, here's what to do:

- Check Edmodo or my website for any handouts or assignments you missed. I will give you any necessary hard copies of if printing them on your own is an issue, and I will chat with you about when to make up any missed tests, quizzes, or lessons.
- Immediately turn in any projects or assignments that were due on the day(s) you were absent. (3 days grace period for this work)
- Do not rely on friends. They might forget important details.
- Be prepared to take a missed test or quiz ASAP. You are not guaranteed extra days to study as all tests and quizzes are announced well in advance of the assessment date.

Snow Day Policy

If there's a chance we will have a snow day, please bring home all of the school supplies you will possibly need to do work from home. Not having a paper or book will not be grounds for an extension on a due date.

If we have a snow day, then we will resume our planned due dates as quickly as possible. For example, if we were supposed to take a test or quiz on the cancelled day, then **it will happen on the next possible school day**. If an assignment was due on the snow day, then it will be due the next possible school day.

For example, if we miss school on Tuesday, anything scheduled for Tuesday is now on Wednesday. (If we miss Friday, it's due Monday.)

If we have a snow day on the day before a test or due date, then **the normal test or due date will still happen on the originally scheduled date**. Assessments will not be pushed back for extra study or homework time!

Finding & Using Books for Independent Reading

In this class, you will need to find and carry an independent reading book with you to every English class. (More details about our independent reading requirements are on another paper.)

The books you choose must be:

- School appropriate
- Ones that your parents would approve of
- An appropriate length
- An appropriate reading level (not too easy or difficult)

If you ever need help finding a book, I can recommend some. However, it's a good life skill to not just rely on a teacher. Please also ask a friend or librarian!

If I have a concern about a book you're reading, I'm allowed to "veto" it or contact your parent(s) or guardians

Document Formatting

Anytime you are submitting a typed document (either printing it or turning in electronically), make sure it includes the following MLA guidelines:

- Running header, upper left corner, with last name and page #
- Heading on first page (left), containing your name, class period, and due date
- Centered title
- 1" margins
- Double spacing
- Times New Roman 12
- No extra spaces between paragraphs (or between headings and titles)
- No excessive spacing, bolding, italics, or photos

Revision Policy

Even professional writers usually don't do well on the first draft, so our class has a standard revision policy for writing (such as essays, narratives, and extended writing projects).

If you wish to raise a grade on a piece of writing, you may get ONE chance to raise it. Please turn in a revised copy within FIVE SCHOOL DAYS of receiving that grade. (For example, if you receive an assignment grade on Tuesday, then you have until the end of the period on the next Monday to turn in your revisions.)

If you do not meet the five-day deadline or do not succeed in turning in a draft that is actually better, then you are not given additional chances.

If you're ever unsure about what to revise or how, please see me and do not wait until the last minute.

Cell Phone Policy

Having a Cell Phone in class is a privilege NOT a right. Abuse of this cell phone use policy will result in no phones being allowed in class for the offender for the remainder of the marking period.

- 1). Cell Phones will be placed in the appropriate bin at the front of the room at the start of class or in the cell phone charging area in the back of the room before class starts.
- 2). If cell phones are to be used for the lesson, I will call you up by table to retrieve your phone; however, every student has access to a laptop and cell phones will not be necessary to participate in any lesson.
- 3). Cell phones may be used at the end of class once ALL exit assignments have been collected, laptops have been stored properly, and books have been placed in the assigned cubby. All students must be finished before they may be used.
- 4) AT ANY TIME, I reserve the right to revoke your cell phone privileges.

Class syllabus Continued

Edmodo

Edmodo will be used in this class as an online classroom. If you are absent, please check Edmodo for any handouts, assignments, or links we worked with in class.

- ❑ Each of my classes has a separate Edmodo code. You may be in more than one of my classes and will have more than one code. You may add additional class codes once you have logged in the first time.
- ❑ DO NOT use Edmodo as a personal chat room. I am the admin and I see all messages sent and must approve them to post. Unnecessary posts of a social nature will be deleted and abuse of this will result in disciplinary.
- ❑ DO write down your log-in information somewhere safe. I can not retrieve your password, I can only reset it.
- ❑ We will not be using the online Edmodo assignment, quizzes, or gradebook unless you are on homebound instruction or will be absent for an extended period.

Grading

This class uses a total points system. Students will be evaluated for growth of knowledge in two ways.

Formatively

- Writing Prompts will be daily or almost daily – 5 points
- Exit Tickets – 3 points
- Class Participation – 1 point daily
- Practice Assignments – 5-10 points

Summative

- End of Unit assessments will consist of either Projects, Essays, or Tests : 100 points
- Quizzes – 10-30 points depending on piece of literature being evaluated
- Independent Reading Interviews – 100 points

Semester Plan

- As part of the curriculum, we will be exploring stories that may be considered religious in nature and theme; however, will be studying these stories as works of literature and NOT as religious doctrine.
- Discussions will be held strictly to the comparison of these stories to similar stories from other cultures, sometimes worlds away, and what insights we can gain about those cultures thousands of years later.
- Unit 1 – Myths of Creation and Destruction. We will start in Ancient Mesopotamia and travel around the world looking to find the answer to where ancient man thought we came from and how they used their beliefs to structure civilization. We will be utilizing both the text and www.bigmyth.com
- Unit 2 - Myths of the underworld will attempt to answer the question of what ancient cultures believed about death and the afterlife and includes a study of part one of the Divine Comedy, *The Inferno*.
- Unit 3 - We will be evaluating Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey and watching several films which help to illustrate the Monomyth theory. The complete list of films is attached to this syllabus and parental approval is required to watch them in class. This unit will help with an overall understanding of what makes a hero and how we are all living our own hero's journey.

- Novel Unit - This unit takes us deeper into the study of Campbell's theory with a reading of the Hero's Journey of Bilbo Baggins in our reading of *The Hobbit: There and Back Again or an Unexpected Journey* (Tolkien)
- Unit 4 – Modern Myth: We will conclude the semester by looking at how myth continues to be part of humanity's process of understanding itself and the world around us by exploring the myths we tell today in the form of urban legends. What do these stories say about us? How will they inform future generations in the way that the ancient myths tell us about cultures of the past.

Final Exam

The final exam is comprehensive and is 14% of the course grade. It involves the reading of a short myth from ancient Greece and the interpretation of that myth using the knowledge students have gained throughout the semester. Students will be required to write a five paragraph essay as their final.