New Course Proposal
Goddess Mythology

1. **Course Title and Number** WS 328 Goddess Mythology

2. **Course Description**
The course is a global examination of goddess mythology. The course will take a look at goddess traditions around the globe, Greek and Roman mythology, African, Asian, and American cultures. The evolution and fragmentation of the goddess is examined with its spiritual traditions, myths, and legends. Contemporary goddess religions will also be explored. The course explores the symbolic significance of female divinity and the impact of its loss on all aspects of culture. By critically reflecting on how spiritual symbols have been used historically to empower and disempower women, the course draws connections between the sacred legacy of the goddess and women’s relationship to nature religions. The course will also address current debates about conflicting ideologies (patriarchy, matriarchy, and egalitarianism) and the actual existence of goddess cultures.

3. **Course Prerequisites.** WS 110 or WS 150 or AACS 150 or AACS 155 and ENG 110

4. **Course Objectives:**
The course objectives are to:

- Present the history of goddess mythology and goddess religion around the world.
- Examine patriarchal, matriarchal, and egalitarian ideologies.
- Explore the ancient and contemporary role of goddess mythology and goddess religion.
- Examine the connection between concepts of goddess and heroine.
- Reveal the goddess in ancient and modern storytelling.
- Discuss practices of goddess worship in today’s world.

5. **Student Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the course, students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of goddess mythology and goddess religion around the world.
- Analyze patriarchal, matriarchal, and egalitarian ideologies.
- Compare and contrast the ancient and contemporary role of goddess mythology and goddess religion.
- Demonstrate the connection between concepts of goddess and heroine.
- Identify the goddess in ancient and modern storytelling.
- Explain practices of goddess worship in today’s world.
6. **Topical Outline**

   **Week 1.** Overview of goddess traditions
   **Week 2.** Scholarly debate about the existence of goddess culture
   **Week 3.** Greek and Roman goddess and ancient goddesses
   **Week 4.** Lilith and ancient Hebrew folklore
   **Week 5.** African goddesses and goddess religions
   **Week 6.** Celtic Goddesses
   **Week 7:** Kuan Yin, Kali, Sarasvati, and other Asian goddesses
   **Week 8:** Pele and other Hawaiian goddesses
   **Week 9:** White Buffalo Woman and North American traditions
   **Week 10:** Voodoo and Afro-Caribbean cultural traditions
   **Week 11:** Ixchel and Mayan culture, Aztec culture and the goddess
   **Week 12:** Guadalupe and Christian tradition
   **Week 13:** Mother Mary and Mary Magdelene: Virgin/Whore Dichotomies
   **Week 14:** Contemporary goddesses and feminism

7. **Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities**
   - Lectures
   - Discussion
   - Film
   - Speaker

8. **Student Assessment**
   - Short writing assignments
   - Research paper
   - Quizzes
   - Exams

9. **Suggested Readings and Texts:**
   - Emerson, Nathaniel. *Pele and Hiaka: A Myth*
   - Murphy and Sanford, *Osun across the Waters*: Indian University Press. 2001

10. **Readings and Texts**


________________ *The Woman’s Encyclopedia of Myths & Secrets*.


11. Preparer’s name: Professor Arlene Holpp Scala and Adjunct Professor Helen Dedes
12. Original Approval Date: December 2007
13. Reviser’s Name and Date: Elena Sabogal, November 11, 2008
14. Department Revision Approval Date: November 2008