

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:

Agha-Jaffar, Tamara. Women and Goddesses, 2004

Egelbade and Weaver, Yemonja; Athelia Henrietta Press. 1998.

Emerson, Nathaniel. Pele and Hiaka: A Myth

Kawainui Kane, Herb, Pele; Kawainui Press. 1996.

Lemming David. Goddess: Myths of the Female Divine. Oxford. 1996

Mookerjee, Ajit, Kali: The Feminine Force; Destiny Books.1988.

Murphy and Sanford, Osun across the Waters; Indian University Press. 2001

Spretnak Charlene, Lost Goddesses of Early Greece Beacon Press. 1992

Stone, Merlin, When God Was A Woman; Barnes and Noble. 1993.
Stone, Merlin, Ancient Mirrors Of Womanhood Beacon Press. 1990.

10. Readings and Texts

Ann, Martha and Imel, Dorothy Myers. *Goddesses In World Mythology*. New York: Oxford,1993.

Alexiou, Stylianos. *Minoan Civilization*. Translated by Cressda Ridley. Heraclion: V. Kouvidis – V. Manouras, Co. 2000.

Baring, Anne and Cashford, Jules. *The Myth of the Goddess*. New York: Penguin,1993.

Beckwith, Martha. *Hawaiian Mythology*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1970.

Biaggi, Cristina. *Habitation Of The Great Goddess*. Manchester, Connecticut. Ideas, Knowledge and Trends, 1994.

--. *Rule of Mars*. Manchester, Connecticut. Ideas, Knowledge and Trends, 2003.

Canizares, Baba Raul. *Yemaya*. New York: Original Publications, 2005.

Castillo, Ana. Ed. *Goddess of the Americas: Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe*. Berkley Publishing Group: New York. 1996.

Christ, Carol P. *Odyssey With The Goddess*. New York: Continuum, 1995.

--. *She Who Changes*. New York: Palgrave, 2003.

--. *Woman Spirit Rising*. New York: San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1992.

Christ, Carol P, and Plaskow, Judith. *Rebirth of The Goddess*. New York: Routledge, 1997.

--. *Weaving The Visions*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco,1989.

Conner, Randy P. *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Participation in African-Inspired Traditions in the Americas*. New York: Harrington Park Press. 2004.

Crawford, O.G.S. *The Eye Goddess*. Oak Park, Illinois: Delphi Press, 1991.

Davidson, Hilda Ellis. *Rules Of The Northern Goddess*. New York: Routledge, 1998.

Edwards, Carolyn McVickar. *The Storyteller's Goddess: Tales of the Goddess and Her Wisdom from Around the World*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1991.

Eisler, Riane. *The Chalice and the Blade*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1988.

- Fang Yu, Chun. *Kuan-Yin*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.
- Farrar, Janet and Stewart. *The Witches' Goddess*. Blaine, Washington Phoenix Publishing, 1987.
- Frymer-Kensky, Tikva. *In the Wake of the Goddesses*. New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1992.
- Gimbutas, Marija. *Civilization Of The Goddess*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1991.
- . *Goddesses and Gods Of Old Europe*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.
- . *Living Goddesses*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- . *Language Of The Goddess*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1989.
- Gleason, Judith. *Oya In Praise of an African Goddess*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1992.
- Goodison, Lucy, *Moving Heaven and Earth*. London: Women's Press, LTD., 1990.
- Hagstoz, Hera. *The Spanish Goddess*. New York: I Universe, Inc., 2005
- Hawkes, Jacquetta *Dawn of the Gods*. New York: Random House, 1968.
- Heath, Jennifer. *On The Edge Of Dream*. New York: Plume Book, 1998.
- Jung, Carl Gustav. *Jung on Alchemy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1995.
- . *Mysterium Coniunctionus*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1970.
- . *Portable Jung*. New York: Penguin Books. 1971.
- Kane, Herb Kawainui. *Pele*. Captain Cook, Hawaii: Kawainui Press, 1987.
- Markale, Jean. *The Great Goddess*. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions, 1997.
- Marinatos, Nanno. *Minoan Religion*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1993.
- Mookerjee, Ajit. *Kali The Feminine Force*. Rochester, VT: Destiny Books, 1988.
- Murphy, Joseph M. and Sanford, Mei-Mei. *Osun across the Waters*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001.
- Spretnak Charlene. *Lost Goddesses*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1978.
- Starbird, Margaret. *The Goddess in the Gospels*. Rochester, VT: Bear and Company, 1998.

Starhawk, *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex & Politics*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1982.
--. *Earth Path*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 2005.

--. *The Spiral Dance*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1979.

Stone, Merlin. *When God Was A Woman*. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1993.
--. *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1979.

Walker, Barbara G. *The I Ching of the Goddess*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991.

_____ *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths & Secrets*.

Weaver, Lloyd and Egbelade, Olurunmi. *Yemonja*. New York: Altheia Henrietta Press, 1998.

Wilshire, Donna. *Virgin Mother, Crone: Myths & Mysteries of the Triple Goddess*. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions, 1994.

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