

Syllabus for Women's Studies: WS: 328-80: Goddess Mythology- Online

Prof: H. Dedes

Winter 2010

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Required Texts:

Agha-Jaffar, Tamara. Women and Goddesses: In Myth and Sacred Text
ISBN 0-321-24432-X

Spretnak Charlene, Lost Goddesses of Early Greece Beacon Press. ISBN:0807013439

Technical Requirements:

Students must have access to a Pentium class personal computer running Windows 95 or above (or the Power Macintosh equivalent), with 32MB of RAM (64MB recommended), and a 33.3 modem or higher for Internet access. You can use your own internet service provider (ISP) or William Paterson for Internet access. You should understand how to operate a computer using a Windows 95 interface (using keyboard and mouse), navigate the Internet, and know how to use e-mail, send attachments, and work with a word processor Microsoft Word for successfully submitting documents through Blackboard. Students are required to have Window Media Player nine minimum to view and respond to required assignments through streaming video. Important reminder: papers and assignments are accepted in Microsoft Word 2003 or 2007 format only.

Course Description: The course is a global examination of Goddess mythology. The course considers and analyzes goddess traditions around the globe, Greek and Roman mythology, African, Asian, and American cultures, etc. 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 dis-empower 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.

Course Objectives:

1. Present the history of Goddess mythology and Goddess religion.
2. Examine patriarchal, matriarchal, and egalitarian ideologies.
3. Explore the ancient and contemporary role of Goddess mythology and Goddess religion.
4. Examine the connection between concepts of Goddess and heroine.
5. Reclaim the Goddess in ancient and modern storytelling.
6. Discuss contemporary practices of Goddess worship.

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Course Outcomes:

1. Identify major Goddesses in various cultures.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of conflicting ideologies including, matriarchy, patriarchy and egalitarianism.
3. Discuss archetypes relevant to the Goddess.
4. Discuss various contemporary Goddess rituals

Course Schedule:

Day One: December 26: Discussion Board One Introduce yourself. Read syllabus for clarification of course expectation and successful completion of the course; then write a paragraph introduction of yourself in the first discussion board, explaining why you enrolled in Goddess Myth, and your areas of interest in Goddess myth.

A) Post a minimum eight sentence paragraph introduction of yourself.

B) Review syllabus and familiarize yourself with blackboard.

Posted through Blackboard Attachment in Discussion Board two of Blackboard: Greek Gods and Goddesses Attachment

Due Monday December 28

Discussion Board Two Monday 12/28-29 due 12/30: Overview of Goddess traditions and scholarly debate about the existence of Goddess Culture, Egalitarianism, Matriarchy and Patriarchy.

Following assigned readings are posted in Discussion Board One

Carol P. Christ, "Why Women Need The Goddess"

Heidi Gottner-Androth, "Matriarchy" and interview with Joan Marler

Peggy Reeves Sanday, "Matriarchy as Sociocultural Form" and "Female Power"

Susan Carter- Terms

Marler, "Myth of Universal Patriarchy"

Gimbutas "Civilization of the Goddess"

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Discussion Board Three: December 30th due December 31st Directly quoting from Spretnak and the Agha-Jaffar text analyze the myths of Demeter, Persephone, Aphrodite, Hera, and Athena for the weekly discussion board.

Classical Myth: Greek and Roman Goddesses

**Chapter 4 Demeter and Persephone page 103-18 Women and Lost Goddesses
Spretnak and Spretnak's introduction in Goddesses of Early Greece Compare and Contrast Homeric Hymn to Demeter with pgs 66-82 Chapter 4 Agha-Jaffar with Spretnak's Demeter and Persephone myth**

Aphrodite pages Spretnak 69-72 with Hesiod's creation myth of Aphrodite in Theogony

Athena Spretnak pages 97-101 with Athena and Arachne myth

Hera Spretnak pgs 85-94 with Hesiod Hera and Zeus myth.

Discussion Board Four: December 31st: Directly quoting from Agha-Jaffar text analyze book X of Homer's "Odyssey" and Euripides "Medea" for the weekly discussion board.

Greek and Roman goddesses and ancient goddesses

Circe and Medea Women and Goddesses Agha-Jaffar Chapter 5 and 6 pgs 84-149

- Circe and her relevance in the "Odyssey"

Due by Monday January 4th

Discussion Board Five: Monday January 4th: Directly quoting from the text analyzes the myths of Isis and Inanna for the weekly discussion board.

Egyptian Goddesses Isis and Sumerian Goddess Inanna pages 1-40 of Women and Goddesses Agha-Jaffar. Due by January 5th.

Discussion Board Six: Tuesday January 5th Directly quoting from the text analyzes the myths of Lilith, Eve, and Mary for the weekly discussion board. Lilith, Eve, Mother Mary, and Ancient Hebrew folklore

194-226 Agha-Jaffar Answering questions at end of each chapter

Due Wednesday January 6, 2010

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Discussion Board Seven: Wednesday January 6th
African, Afro-Caribbean, South American and Voodoo Goddess Myth and Religion
Agha-Jaffar Chapter 16 Oshun pages 249-56 Answering questions 1-9 at end of the chapter.

Directly quoting from the text analyzes the myths for the weekly discussion board.
White Buffalo Woman and Corn Woman Navajo Creation Myth and Corn and North American traditions Agha-Jaffar pgs 257-70 Answer questions at end of each chapter.

Due Thursday January 7th

Discussion Board Eight: Thursday January 7th Directly quoting from the text analyze the myths for the weekly discussion board.

Amaterasu, Kuan Yin, and other Asian Goddesses Agha-Jaffar 172-93

***Additional online links provided for further reading**

Due Friday January 8th

Discussion Board Nine: Friday January 9th Directly quoting from the text analyze the myths of Hawwa and Maryam for the weekly discussion board.

Chapters 14 and 15 of Agha-Jaffar Hawwa and Maryam 227-48

Due Tuesday January 12

Monday January 11th Virtual Museum Assignment Due

Discussion Board Ten: Tuesday January 12th Directly quoting from the text analyze the myths of Kali, Sita and Sarasvati.

Kali, Sita, Sarasvati and other South Asian

Goddesses Kali and Sita, Read Excerpts of online version of "Ramayana" through www.sacredtexts.com pgs 150-72 Agha-Jaffar

Due by January 13th

January 14th and 15th. Finish Goddess Paper

Goddess Research Paper due by Friday 1/15

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Final Goddess research papers.

Everyone should understand the difference between scholarly article and scholarly and the WPU online library, if not go to reference librarian or contact reference librarian. Course documents section of blackboard will have examples of scholarly journals. If in doubt JSTOR for Goddess scholarly journal research and if JSTOR is unsuccessful you can send e-mail to discuss other research engines for Goddess journals.

Breakdown of Grades:

40% Weekly Discussion Board

25% Popular Culture and Non-Popular Culture Goddess Evidence Folder

Submitted through digital drop box. Due Monday January 4th, 2010 11:59PM.

Strict deadline.

10 % Virtual Museum Assignment 2-3 pages from Judy Chicago's Dinner Party due date Monday January 11th, 2010

25 % Goddess Final Research Paper 7-9 pages Friday January 15, 2010th. Strict deadline.

***Goddess Evidence Folder 25% of Final Grade due Monday January 4. Strict deadline, Digital drop box only with working links required**

20 Examples total. Write a paragraph for each example.

Select four continents to complete a global and/ or national examination of the Goddess in popular and ancient cultures.

You can select four continents/ and or regions to examine the Goddess for your evidence folder:

Europe

Asia

Africa

South America

North and Central America

Caribbean Islands

Three tangibles and two non-tangibles for each continent and or region selected.

The Goddess Evidence Folder must contain at least **5** examples each of **4** different continents/and or regions of goddesses. **3** examples in each category must be **tangible** (Ads, newspapers, articles, lyrics, Internet sites, etc.). Present each example with your analysis of its meaning and significance to the goddesses.

Non-tangible examples should be drawn from your daily life and your observations of the culture. **2** examples for each continent and/or region are required to be non-tangible.

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You should be creative with your Goddess evidence folder. You could interview different people about a particular Goddess; one option is to practice meditating to a particular Goddess with a guided meditation and writing about that experience. If you are an artist you could draw artwork for several Goddesses. Please be original. Total submission is 20 examples.

Non-tangible possibilities include personal observation and/or experience. These must include relevant information (date, place, time and description of event) as well as your analysis of the event. Another option is personal interviews. Folders will be evaluated on the appropriateness of each example, the variety of evidence you compile, (downloading from the same website is strongly discouraged), and the analysis you offer.

Final Goddess Research Paper 25% Final Grade: Due Friday 1/15 7-9 pages. Strict deadline. Submitted through digital drop box.

Paper has minimum five sources. You select and with an e-mail approval from me , you research a topic selecting a Goddess to write a 7-9 page analytical research paper. MLA Format, 12 Fonts, Double Spaced. It is important and necessary you are able to retrieve enough research on your particular Goddess to write a minimum 7 page paper.

Please do not write a paper about a male God. Writing a paper about a male God will result in an F grade for the final paper assignment.

These papers are not to be summaries of the selected essays/journals or texts you have selected to create your particular paper topic. A paper that is based in critical thinking requires the following: Paper length requirement seven pages to be in contention for A or B grade.

1. You (the student) create a valid and substantial thesis which is mentioned in the opening paragraph. A thesis is a claim that is supported in the body of your paper.
2. You are able to prove your thesis consistently throughout the body of the paper with supported text quotes from retrieved sources.
3. Students provide a Works Cited page.
4. Students place their last name and page number on each page of their paper.
5. Students adhere to MLA format for paper writing
6. Five sources minimum required.

(Scholarly text sources are gladly welcomed; since this is an online course it not required that you retrieve scholarly text sources from Cheng.)

Paper should:

1. Identify the quoted sources by journal, title, name of author in the opening paragraph.

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2. Critically think and write your reaction and connection to the author's assignments journal/essay.
3. Critique the assigned readings in depth analyzing your selected quotations. Students often abandon the selected quote and proceed to a new paragraph.

Recommended: purchase Joseph Gibaldi's "Handbook for Writers of Research Papers".

Absences:

Our class is in asynchronous fashion. Meaning you must respond to assigned readings by the required due date. If you post after the assigned due date and time deadline your posting does not count. If you do not respond to three or more discussion boards during the semester it is inevitable that you will not receive a passing grade for the course. You have opted out of literal class time. Discussion boards replace literal class time.

Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities

Lectures
Discussion
Film
Guest Speaker(s)

Student Assessment

Short writing assignments
Research paper
Virtual Museum Assignment
Goddess Evidence Folder

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