

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

Prof: H. Dedes

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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
Avatar (DVD) Purchase or rent.

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: Discussion Board One—Introduction(s) December 27: Discussion Board One Introduce yourself.

Read syllabus for clarification of course expectation and successful completion of the course. Write a paragraph introduction of yourself in the first discussion board. Explain 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 Tuesday December 28

Discussion Board Two: Avatar-- Tuesday 12/28 due 12/29: View film Avatar

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis of the movie “Avatar” providing Direct quotes and the film’s relevance to the Goddess and Goddess mythology.

**Discussion Board Three: December 29th due December 30
Classical Myth: Greek and Roman Goddesses**

Directly quoting from the intro of Spretnak’s *Lost Goddesses of Early Greece* and analyze the myths of Aphrodite for the discussion board

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

Read Spretnak’s introduction pages 17-41.

Aphrodite pages Spretnak 69-72

**Discussion Board 4: December 30 due December 31.
Greek Goddesses Demeter, Persephone, Hera, and Athena.
Hera Spretnak pgs 85-94.
Athena Spretnak pages 97-101**

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Demeter and Persephone Spretnak page 103-18

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

Discussion Board 5: Greek Goddesses Friday December 31- Due Monday 1/3

Compare and Contrast Homeric Hymn to Demeter pgs 66-82 Chapter 4 Agha-Jaffar with Spretnak's Demeter and Persephone myth

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

Optional links provided to Hesiod's creation myth of Aphrodite in Theogony.

Athena and Arachne myth

Hera and Zeus myth

Discussion Board Six: Monday January 3- Due Wednesday January 5:

Greek and Roman Goddesses

Directly quoting from Aghar-Jaffar text analyze book X of Homer's "Odyssey" and Euripides "Medea" for the weekly discussion board.

Circe and Medea Women and Goddesses Agha-Jaffar Chapter 5 and 6 pgs 84-149 - Circe and her relevance in the "Odyssey"

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis for Medea and two paragraphs for Circe (equals 4 paragraphs) include direct quotes.

Discussion Board Seven: Wednesday January 5th due Friday January 7th: 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.

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes

Discussion Board Eight: Thursday January 6th due Jan. 10 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

Discussion Board Nine: Friday January 7th due Tuesday Jan. 11

African, Afro-Caribbean, South American and Voodoo Goddess Myth and Religion Agha-Jaffar Chapter 16 Oshun pages 249-56. Write a paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

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

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

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Discussion Board Ten: Monday January 10th due Wednesday Jan. 12 directly quoting from the text analyze the myths for the weekly discussion board.

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

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes.

Discussion Board Eleven: Tuesday January 11th due Thursday Jan. 13

Directly quoting from the text analyzes 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

Write a two paragraph summary and analysis include direct quotes

January 14th-16th. Finish Goddess Paper

Goddess Research Paper due by Sunday 1/16

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

30% Popular Culture and Non-Popular Culture Goddess Evidence Folder

Due Friday January 7th, 2010 11:59PM. Strict deadline.

30 % Goddess Final Research Paper 7-9 pages Friday January 16, 2010th. Strict deadline.

***Goddess Evidence Folder 25% of Final Grade due Monday January 7. Strict deadline.**

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

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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. 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 Sunday 1/16 7-9 pages. Strict deadline. Submitted through digital drop box.

Paper has minimum five sources. You select and with an e-mail approval 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.

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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.
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
Goddess Evidence Folder

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