



Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce

(An Autonomous College under Savitribai Phule Pune University)

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE FOR 'DEGREE WITH HONOURS' PROGRAMME

Title of the Course: Comparative Mythology

No. of Hours: 45

Course Code: 40312I16

Faculty: Ms. Neha Sharma

Learning Outcome

- CO 1: Enumerate the theoretical framework of mythological studies, through interdisciplinary fields like- Archetypal Theory and Depth Psychology (Jung, Kerenyi), Comparative Religion (Mircea Eliade) and Myth Criticism (Northrop Frye), Symbolic Anthropology (Victor Turner, Mary Douglas), Feminist Revisionist theories (Kate Millet, Marija Gimbutas), Culture-Subjectivity- Agency (Jasbir Jain) ;and the approaches and parameters of foremost mythologists like Heinrich Zimmer, Coomarswamy and Joseph Campbell, Cassirer.
- CO 2: Interpret symbols and narratives forms in myths from across the world and appreciate the archetypal patterns by comparing similar themes and structures in discrete mythical entities
- CO 3: Discover the mythic perspective as essential paradigm of engaging with oneself and the world
- CO 4: Analyse Intellectual, Ethical and Artistic underpinnings of Mythology
- CO5: Assess verbal and visual motifs in mythical narratives

Teaching Methodology:

The pedagogy of the Course justifies the interdisciplinarity of the content, involving Cognitive and Affective Domains. The transdisciplinary approaches allow students to interpret the content creatively and critically. The interactive sessions balance academic rigour with a passion and delightful involvement into the most unique expression of human imagination. The readings are comprehensive and substantial.

Unit	Contents of the syllabus	Number of Hours
1.	Orientation Why Myth?/Myths and us Mythology in a society Myth, Literature and socio- political realities Significance of Comparative Study Myth as Metaphors	2
2.	Module 1: Understanding Mythology Topic : Introduction The world of myths Definitions Different Narrative forms Myth and the modern world Introduction to Comparative Mythology Myth and History ; Myth and Geography	4

	<p>Topic : Theories and Approaches This course does not end up providing a survey, but advances further to expose students to different critical intellectual positions developed over the years in the field of comparative mythology. Brief introduction to the history of the study of myths: Theories and Approaches Parameters to read myths in the contemporary world.</p>	
3.	<p>Module 2: Creation Myths/ Myths of Origin Topic: Introduction to Creation Myths- the foremost narratives Types of Creation Myths Topic: Inuit Creation Myth Topic: Chinese Creation Myth Topic: Novaho (Native American) Creation Myth Topic: Indian Creation Myth Topic: Greek Creation Myth Topic: (Mesopotamian) Babylonian Creation Myth Enuma Elish; Sumerian Creation Myth Topic: (Mesoamerican)- Mayan Creation Myth (Popol Vuh) Topic: Egyptian Creation Myth Topic: Australian Aboriginal Creation Myth – Dreamtime story Topic: Concluding Discussion: Analyse similarities and differences between the discussed creation myths</p>	10
4.	<p>Module 3: Journey Myths Topic: Introduction The Hero and his Adventures Morphology of the journey Functions of a King Topic: The Journey of the Hero in Epics Variations in Epical tradition Topic: Epic of Gilgamesh (Mesopotamian) Topic: Beowulf Topic: Indian Epics- Ramayana, Mahabharata Topic: Greek Epics: Homer’s Odyssey and Illiad Topic: Journey of the Hero in Myths associated with legendary kings King Arthur – Romances from the cycle of King Arthur Vikramaditya – The King and the Corpse King Conn-eda of Ireland Topic: The Hero as God- Quest for Self Krishna Buddha Jesus Topic: Cinema, Myth and socio- political realities- Devi (Satyajit Ray), Seventh Seal (Ingmar Bergman), Die Niebelungen (Fritz Lang) The Mythical Journey of the hero in popular movies- The Lord of the Rings/ Matrix/ Star Wars/ Kung-fu Panda</p>	14
5.	<p>Module 4: Appreciation- Select Screening of the mentioned films. OR Guest Lecture/ Presentation</p>	3

6.	Module 5: Archetypal Patterns Topic: What are Archetypes? Jung and Depth Psychology- The Collective Unconscious and Myth Adolf Bastian and Elementargedanken- Elementary Ideas Mircea Eliade- Myth of Eternal Return	3
7.	Module 6: Rites de Passage Topic: Stages of life Topic: Rites in different societies/cultures Topic: Sacrifice and bliss Topic: Van Gennep's Tripartite Model Victor Turner's Liminality and Communitas	2
8.	Module 7: Recurrent Themes / Motifs / Customs Topic: Belly of the whale Topic: Circle Topic: Fertility Myths Topic: Metamorphosis of the individual and the World Topic: Symbols for a Mythology for the Future	2
9.	Module 8: Rituals: Masks of Eternity Topic: Myth and Music Topic: Myth and Dance Topic: Myth and Folk Theatre	2
10.	Module 8: Assignments/ Presentation/ Group Discussion (Internal Evaluation)	3
	Total Number of Hours	45

Suggested Reference Books

Allegheri, Dante. The Divine Comedy. Trans. C.H. Sisson. New York: OUP, 1993 (1981).

Birrell, Anne. Chinese Myths. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan Pvt. Ltd. ,2010.

Budge, E A Wallis. Egyptian Religion: Egyptian Ideas of Future Life .London: Arkana, 1987 (1899).

Borges, Jorge Luis. The Book of Imaginary Beings. Trans. Norman Thomas di Giovanni. London: Vintage, 2002 (1970).

Campbell, Joseph. The Flight of the wild Gander: Explorations in the mythological Dimension.
Novato, California: New World Library, 2002.

---. The Inner Reaches of Outer Space: Metaphor as Myth and Religion. Novato, California: New World Library, 2002.

---. The Masks of God: Oriental Mythology. Vol.1. New York: Arkana, Penguin. 1991.

--- . The Masks of God: Vol. IV- Creative Mythology. New York: Arkana, Penguin, 1991 (1968).

---. The Masks of God: Vol III- Occidental Mythology. London: Souvenir Press, 2001 (New York: Viking, 1964).

---. The Hero with a Thousand Faces. London: Fontana. 1993. (USA: Princeton University Press, 1949).

---.Ed. and Intro. The Portable Jung. Trans. RFC Hull. NY: Viking Penguin, 1971.

--- and Bill Moyers. The Power of Myth.Ed. Betty Sue Flowers. New York: Doubleday, 1988.

Camus, Albert. The Myth of Sisyphus. Tran. Justin O'Brien. London: penguin, 2005 (1975). Original French ed. Le Mythe de Sisyphe first published in 1942

Cassirer, Earnst. The Language and Myth. Tran. Langer.U S: Dover, 1953.

Chakravarty, Kalyan Kumar, Ed. Text and Variations of the Mahabharata: Contextual, Regional and Performative Traditions. National Mission for Manuscripts, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2009.

Coomarswamy, Anand K. The Dance of Shiva. Preface by Romain Rolland. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2009.

--- and Sister Nivedita. Classics Indian Tales. Mumbai: Jaico, 2004.

Doniger, Wendy. The Implied Spider. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

Dowson, John. A Classical Dictionary of Hindu Myth and Religion, Geography, History and Literature. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1961.

Dutt, Romesh Chander. The Ramayana and Mahabharata. London: J.M. Dent and Sons, 1961.

---. The Great Epics of Ancient India. 1900. Delhi: Ess Ess, 1976.

Edinger, Edward F. Ego and Archetype. Shambhala, 1992.

--- . The Eternal Drama: The Inner Meaning of Greek Mythology. Boston & London: Shambala, 1994.

Eliade, Mercia. The Myth of the Eternal Return. Trans. Willard R Trask. New Jersey: Princeton U P, 1954.

Frazer, James Sir. The Golden Bough. London: Macmillan, 1969.

Frye, Northrop. Creation and Recreation. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1980.

--- . The Anatomy of Criticism. NJ: Princeton U P, 1990 (1957).

Gandhi, M.K. The Message of Gita. Ahmedabad: Navajivan, 1959.

Gimbutas, Marija. The Living Goddesses. Ed. Miriam Robbins Dexter. Berkeley: Univ of California Press, 1999.

Grimm, J L C and W C. Grimms' Fairy Tales. Barnes and Nobles, 2005.

Haksar, A.N.D, trans. Hitopadesa. New Delhi: Penguin, 1998.

--- .Simhasana Dvatrimsika: Thirty-two Tales of the Throne Of Vikramaditya. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998.

Hamilton, Edith. Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes. New York: Warner Books, 1999 (1942).

Hannah, Barbara. The Archetypal Symbolism of Animals: Lectures given at the C G Jung Institute, Zurich, 1954-1958. Ed. David Aldred. Illinois: Chiron, 2006.

Heaney, Seamus, Trans. Beowulf: A Verse Translation. Ed. Daniel Donoghue. New York: W W Norton, 2002.

Hesiod. Theogony and Works and Days. Trans. M L West. New York: OUP, 2008 (1988).

Hiltebeitl, Alf. The Ritual of Battle. Albany: SUNY Press, 1970.

Homer. The Illiad. Trans. George Chapman. London: Wordsworth, 2003.

Hopkins, E. Washburn. The Great Epic of India: Character and Origin of Mahabharata. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1993.

Jamison, Stephanie W. The Ravenous Hyenas and Wounded Sun: Myth and Ritual in Ancient India. Cornell Univ Press, 1991.

---. The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious. Sec Ed. Trans. R.F.C Hull. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 2009 (First ed.1959).

--- and Kerényi. Introduction to the Science of Mythology. U.K.: Routledge and Kegan, 1970.

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Keith, Berridale. The Religion and Philosophy of Vedas and Upanishads. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard Univ Press, 1925. Retrived from Internet Archive-
<https://archive.org/stream/religionandphilo030958mbp#page/n5/mode/2up>

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Lal, P. trans. The Bhavad Gita. Calcutta: Lake Gardens, 1965, 20.

Lang, Andrew. Myth, Ritual and Religion. Vol.2. New York: AMS, 1968.

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- Storm, Rachel. *The Encyclopedia of Eastern Mythology*. London: Lorenz, 1999.
- Sukthankar, V.S. *On the Meaning of the Mahabharata*. Bombay: Asiatic Society, 1998.
- Turner, Victor.
- Von- Franz, Marie Louise .*Creation Myths*. Boston & London: Shambala, 1995 (1972).
- Weston, Jessie. *From Ritual to Romance*. New Jersey: Princeton Univ Press,Mythos- Princeton Bollingen Series in World Mythology, 1993
- Wilhelm, Richard. *A Chinese Book of Life*. Foreword, C.G. Jung.London: Arkana, 1984.
- Zimmer, Heinrich. *Myth and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization*. Ed. Joseph Campbell. New Jersey: Princeton U P, 1974.
- . *Philosophies of India*. Ed. Joseph Campbell. Delhi, Motilal Banarsidass, 1990. (New York: Bolingen, 1969).
- . *The King And The Corpse: Tales of soul's quest of Evil*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. 1999 (1948.)