

Online Reserve Reading pw: PURANA

Mythology of India

Basic Goals and Preview of the Course

This course will introduce you to many of the fundamental “myths” of the civilization of India, and also to the systematic study of “myths” from a comparative, inter-cultural perspective. We will read translations of many Indian “myths,” discuss them in their historical and cultural context, and analyze what functions they perform in that context. This course will strengthen your ability to read important texts in a cross-cultural perspective, improve your abilities to think analytically, and also improve your abilities to express your thoughts in careful writing.

Books Required for This Course

Ananda Coomaraswamy and Sister Nivedita, *Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists*

Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), *Hindu Myths*

Alan Dundes, *Sacred Narrative: Readings in the Theory of Myth*

Requirements, Grades, and Procedures

There will be one mid-term paper (6-8 pages, 30% of final grade), which we will lead up to with a series of three short papers (3 pages each; 30% of final grade), and there will be a take-home final essay-exam (30% of final grade). Participation in class discussions (regular on-time attendance, making good contributions during the daily class discussions) will count for the final 10% of the final grade. The short papers will be on assigned topics; I will provide optional topics for the mid-term paper, but you may choose your own topic for that paper (but please discuss it with me or the teaching assistant well ahead of time). Please make a point of being in class before the class hour begins; stay in class without leaving for the duration of the class (unless you are ill or have a medical condition). It is expected that you will refrain from eating during class (unobtrusive consumption of liquids is OK with me).

Please do come and talk to me outside of class. My office hours are 1:00 to 2:00 on Wednesdays in Wilbour 101, and other times by appointment. Please do join me there for extra discussion of what we are reading.

Email: I will answer all substantive email. For any routine class business that you may have missed, or to find out what was done on a day you missed class, please consult a friend in the class. When sending email to me please use the **following label: CLASSICS 850**. Mail with this label will be filtered into a special mail folder, so that I will be sure to see your mail amidst all the clutter in my inbox.

Professor Fitzgerald

TA: Justin Byrd

Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 Wednesday (and by appointment)

Office Hours: T 10-11

Wilbour 101

Wilbour 004

Reading Schedule

1	Wed Jan 22	Introduction
	The <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> of India	
2	Fri Jan 24	<i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 6-51 (up to “The Regency of Bharata”). Alan Dundes, Introduction to <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 1-3.
3	Mon Jan 27	<i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 51-117 (end).
4	Wed Jan 29	Julia Leslie, “Suttee or <i>Satī</i> : Victim or Victor?” in <i>Roles and Rituals for Hindu Women</i> , ed. Julia Leslie (Rutherford, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1991), 175–91. (Supplied by instructor.)
5	Fri Jan 31	First Short Paper Due. (What is, or are, the main point, or points, the <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> makes for its audiences?)
	What is Myth and What Does it Do?	
6	Mon Feb 3	William Bascom, “The Forms Of Folklore” (In <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 5-29).
7	Wed Feb 5	Bronislaw Malinowski, “The Role of Myth in Life” (in <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 193-206).
	Indo-European Mythology and Indian Myths of Indra	
8	Fri Feb 7	Jaan Puhvel, Introduction to <i>Comparative Mythology</i> : 1-4. (Online Reserve, OCRA) Jaan Puhvel, Chapter 3 in <i>Comparative Mythology</i> (“The Concepts ‘Indo-European’ And ‘Indo-Iranian’”)
9	Mon Feb 10	Jaan Puhvel, Chapter 4 in <i>Comparative Mythology</i> (“Vedic India”) In <i>Comparative Mythology</i> : 33-67 (Online Reserve, OCRA)
10	Wed Feb 12	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 56-65.

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11	Fri Feb 14	Wendy Doniger (O'Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 65-96.
	No Classes Monday Feb 17	
12	Wed Feb 19	Second short paper due.
13	Fri Feb 21	G. S. Kirk, "On Defining Myths" (in <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 53-61).
14	Mon Feb 24	James Fitzgerald, "The Boy 'Slowpoke' as Deep Thinker: In Defense of 'Straying' Wives against Father's Uxoridal Rage." PDF Provided by instructor.
	The <i>Mahābhārata</i>	
15	Wed Feb 26	<i>Mahābhārata</i> in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 118-168 (up to part IX).
16	Fri Feb 28	<i>Mahābhārata</i> in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 168-216 (end).
17	Mon Mar 3	The first main message of the <i>Mahābhārata</i> : Kingship: the story of Pṛthu (reading supplied)
18	Wed Mar 5	The Myth of Ragnarök (reading supplied)
	The Creation of the Universe: Many from One	
19	Fri Mar 7	Wendy Doniger (O'Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 25-31, 270-280.
20	Mon Mar 10	"Manu's Account of the Creation of the World." Supplied by instructor.
21	Wed Mar 12	James G. Frazer, "The Fall of Man" (in <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 72-97).
	Śiva's Creation and Destruction of the World	
22	Fri Mar 14	Wendy Doniger (O'Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 116-125.
23	Mon Mar 17	Third Short Paper Due. Wendy Doniger (O'Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 125-174.
24	Wed Mar 19	"Śiva" in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 286-313.
25	Fri Mar 21	Claude Lévi-Strauss, "The Story of Asdiwal" (in <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 295-314).
	Spring Break: No Classes Mar 24, 26, 28	

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	The Sleep (<i>nidrā</i>) and the Play (<i>līlā</i>) of Viṣṇu	
26	Mon Mar 31	Chapter One of the <i>Viṣṇu Purāṇa</i> (reading supplied)
27	Wed Apr 2	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 175-197.
28	Fri Apr 4	Introduction to the Theory of Jungian Archetypes (reading supplied)
29	Mon Apr 7	Alan Dundes, “Earth Diver” (in <i>Sacred Narrative</i> : 270-294).
30	Wed Apr 9	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 197-204.
31	Fri Apr 11	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 204-237.
32	Mon Apr 14	Mid-Term Paper Due. “Krishna” in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 217-244.
33	Wed Apr 16	McKim Marriott, “The Feast of Love,” in <i>Krishna: Myths, Rites, and Attitudes</i> , ed. Milton Singer (Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1968), 200–212 and 229–231 (notes). (Supplied by instructor.)
	The Goddess: Devī	
34	Fri Apr 18	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 238-249.
35	Mon Apr 21	Wendy Doniger (O’Flaherty), <i>Hindu Myths</i> : 249-269.
36	Wed Apr 23	“Gaṅgā” and “Manasā Devī” in Coomaraswamy & Nivedita, <i>Myths</i> : 317-330.
37	Reading Period Begins	
32	Wed May 7	9:00 AM Take-Home Final Exam Due