

Writing from Mythology
Pathway Access - Fall 2022
Karnes - jkarnes@oakarts.org
Rm 204
Wed: 9:50-11:05
Google Classroom: 6gfriak

Course Description

“We tell ourselves stories in order to live,” Joan Didion wrote in the opening of *The White Album* in 1979, as she surveyed the shifting social script of her time. But these words are as true now as they were then, or in ancient Greece, or any other corner of the globe. People have been telling stories to make sense of their surroundings, communities, fears, and boundaries for as long as we have occupied this planet. And while science has shed light on certain mysteries of old myths, humans are still hungry for narratives to explain, or defend, their experience in this world. In this class, we will be reading and discussing myths from a variety of origins and cultures, examining their roots and overlap, and retelling them in a variety of forms: poetry, personal essay, fiction, and oral storytelling—and more. You will write on a weekly basis, resulting in your own collection of mythology-inspired works by the end of the semester. You will also be responsible for presenting a mythology to the class at some point in the semester. More info on that soon! This class is intended to be fun, so please show up reading to learn and create!

-Discussions, Reading, and Participation: Students will be expected to show up to class prepared to engage and write. Ample class time will be given for all reading and writing assignments, and students will be expected to use their time fully.

-Writing Exercises: Students are expected to keep up with weekly writing exercises. If you don't use class time for writing, then it'll turn into homework.

Student Assessment & Grading

40% Writing Exercises (complete, turned into the GC on time)

40% Presentations (prepared, thorough, with prompt)

20% Attendance (1 point for being on time, 1 for being present, 1 for participation)

Student Attendance

Students are expected to be in the classroom at the start of class to be considered “Present.” Students who are not present at the start of class will be marked “Tardy” or “Tardy Absent” if they arrive after 15 minutes.

Participation

Students are expected to be present throughout the duration of the class period and actively participate in each class. Teachers will keep a record of student participation and it will be factored into student grades in all classes. If there are concerns about the level of participation by a particular student, this will be appropriately communicated by the teacher to the parents if a grade is being repeatedly impacted.

Bathroom breaks & Cell phone policy

Per the OSA student handbook, only ONE student may be out at a time for the restroom. If it's an emergency, just come talk to me. We've had a lot of property damage and incidents last year due to students roaming the halls, so we're going to be strict on this.

As for phones, the policy is: Phones are to be AWAY AWAY (in a backpack, etc.) during instruction. You may use them during writing time to listen to music if your teacher allows, but that is a privilege!

- 1st inappropriate use is a warning.

- 2nd occurrence is immediate confiscation by the teacher and the phone is returned at the end of the period.