ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY
HINE 113

Office: H&SS 4012; phone 858-534-6187; email wpropp@ucsd.edu; office hours Tuesday 12:30-2:30.

Class aims: to approach ancient Near Eastern civilizations through their myths and legends; to see what themes unite them and what themes make them distinct.

Requirements: 2 seven-page (12-point, double-spaced, black ink, bibliography is last page) essays (25% each) (ca. 2000 words), 1 final examination (50%).

N.B. For all essays, you must submit a marked-up first draft along with your final draft.

Attendance: You and I have a standing social engagement three times a week. If you are going to be absent (or drop the course), please have the courtesy to email me.

Texts for purchase (also on reserve):
1. William H. Stiebing, Jr., Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture
2. Stephanie Dalley, Myths From Mesopotamia
3. Michael D. Coogan, Stories From Ancient Canaan
4. Robert A. Segal, Myth, a Very Short Introduction
5. Samuel N. Kramer, Sumerian Mythology

Books on Geisel Library reserve (r):
1. W. Stiebing, Ancient Near Eastern History
2. R. A. Segal, Myth, A Very Short Introduction BL304 .S442 2004
5. Plutarch's De Iside et Osiride; edited by J. Gwyn Griffiths PA4368 .D47 1970
2. The Memphite Theology (Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature* 1.51-57)
5. Neal Walls, *Desire, Discord and Death*, 93-125
6. The Worm and the Toothache (Pritchard, 100-101)
7. Kingship in Heaven (Pritchard, 120-121)
8. Song of Ullikummis (Pritchard, 121-125)

Electronic Reserves (e-r) – password wp113
2. The Memphite Theology (Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature* 1.51-57)
5. Neal Walls, *Desire, Discord and Death*, 93-125
6. The Worm and the Toothache (Pritchard, 100-101)
7. Kingship in Heaven (Pritchard, 120-121)
8. Song of Ullikummis (Pritchard, 121-125)
12. The Two Brothers (Lichtheim, 2.203-211)

N.B. All e-reserves are also available as hard copy class reserves in Geisel Library.

1. Where and When is the Ancient Near East? What is Mythology? (4/1)
   Read: Stiebing, pp. 31-116

2. ANE I (4/3)
   Read: Stiebing, pp. 117-204

3. ANE II (4/5)
   Read: Stiebing, pp. 205-274

4. ANE III (4/8)
   Read: Stiebing, pp. 275-352

5. ANE IV (4/10)
   Read: Segal, Intro, chaps. 1-3; Lucian, *De Dea Syria* §§6-8
   http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/luc/tsg/tsg07.htm#page_47

6. Myth and Science, Religion, Philosophy (4/12)
   Read: Segal, chaps. 4-6

7. Myth and Ritual, Literature, Psychology (4/15)
   Read: Segal, chaps. 7-Conclusion

   Read: Creation by Atum (e-r); The Memphite Theology (e-r); Clifford, *Creation*, 99-113 (e-r); Unas Pyramid Texts (e-r)

9. Egyptian Creation Myths (4/19)
Read: *Plutarch's De Iside* http://www.sacred-texts.com/egy/leg/leg29.htm (e-r); focus on main story, sections 12-19; Horus and Seth (e-r), Walls, *Desire*, 93-125 (e-r)

10. Isis, Osiris, Horus and Seth *(4/22)*
Read: Kramer, *Sumerian Mythology*, 30-103

Read: Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 24-73 (r)

12. Inanna and Dumuzi *(4/26)*
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 182-188; 39-120; 136-153


14. Gilgamesh and the Underworld *(5/1)*
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 228-281; 1-38; The Worm and the Toothache (e-r).

15. Creation and Flood *(5/3)*
Read: Hurrians (Anchor Bible Dictionary, 3.335-338 [SSH reference]); Kingship in Heaven (e-r); Song of Ullikummis (e-r)

16. Hurrian Mythology *(5/6)*
Read: Coogan, *Stories*, 1-74

17. Kirta, Daniel *(5/8)*
Read: Coogan, *Stories* 75-115

Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 181-228 (e-r)

19. Minor Ugaritic Myths *(5/13)*
20. Greek Mythology from the Near East- Hesiod *(5/15)*

21. Phoenician Mythology; **Essay 1 due (5/17)**
    Read: Levitt Kohn and Moore, xi-42 (e-r)

22. The Hebrew Bible *(5/20)*
    Read: Isaiah 51:9-11; Habakkuk chap. 3; Psalms 74, 77, 89; Job chaps. 40-41; Cassuto, “The Israelite Epic” (e-r)

23. The Israelite Creation Myth *(5/22)*
    Read: Exodus chaps. 15-17; Psalm 114; Revelation chaps. 8-13, 20; Propp, *Exodus*, 554-562, 606-613; 620-622 (e-r)

    Read: Exodus chap. 2; “The Two Brothers” (e-r); Propp, *Exodus*, 155-160; 165-166 (e-r); Propp, “The Eunuch Steward” (e-r)

25. Transcontinental Myths: The Foundling; the Disillusioned Prince; the Eunuch Steward *(5/29)*
    Read: Forsyth, *Old Enemy*, pp. 441-455 (r); Propp, *Exodus*, 31-36 (r)

26. The Hero *(5/31)*
    Read: Genesis 6:1-4; Judges chap. 5; Isaiah chap. 14; Ezekiel chap. 28; Psalm 82; Job chap. 1; Revelation chap.12; Auffarth and Stuckenbruck, *Fall*, 11-34 (r); Forsyth, *Old Enemy*, pp. 124-211 (r)

27. Fallen Stars, the Birth of the Devil *(6/3)*
    Read: Genesis chaps. 1-11; Proverbs chap. 8; Job chap. 28

28. Biblical Anti-myths of Creation *(6/5)*
Final Exam; Essay 2 due - Monday 6/10, 8:00; do not come late!

Your two essays will each analyze a myth from the ANE (not necessarily one we’ve covered), applying one or two of the methods from Segal’s book. You must do background research in the library, consulting and citing 2-5 secondary sources. Do not cite Segal’s book; consult the authors themselves. Always, always aim for depth rather than breadth. Follow the directions in my Essay Guide.

Supplementary bibliography
(in addition to reserves list):

General on myth
A. Dundes, The Flood Myth
A. Dundes, ed., Sacred Narrative: Readings in the Theory of Myth
M. Eliade, Cosmos and History: The Myth of the Eternal Return
M. Eliade, Myth and Reality
W. A. Lessa and E. Z. Vogt, eds., Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach
B. Lincoln, Theorizing Myth
J. Puhvel, Comparative Mythology
P. Veyner, Did the Greeks Believe in Their Myths?

General on ANE Myth
W. Burkert, Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual
W. Burkert, The Orientalizing Revolution: Near Eastern Influence on Greek Culture in the Early Archaic Age
H. and H. A. Frankfort, ed., The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man
A. R. W. Green, The Storm God
W. W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger, eds. The Context of Scripture, vol. 1: Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World
P. Walcot, Hesiod and the Near East
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilization</th>
<th>Authors and Titles</th>
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| **Mesopotamia** | J. Bottéro, *Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning and the Gods*  
B. Foster, *Before the Muses: An Anthology of Akkadian Literature*  
T. Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once... Sumerian Poetry in Translation*  
T. Frymer-Kensky, *In the Wake of the Goddesses*  
S. N. Kramer, ed., *Mythologies of the Ancient World*  
A. L. Oppenheim, *Ancient Mesopotamia*  
J. M. Tigay, *The Evolution of the Gilgamesh Epic* |
| **Egypt** | G. Hart, *Egyptian Myths*  
E. Hornung, *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many*  
V. Ions, *Egyptian Mythology* |
| **Canaan** | S. B. Parker, *The Pre-Biblical Narrative Tradition*  
N. H. Walls, *The Goddess Anat in Ugaritic Myth* |
| **Israel** | B. W. Anderson, ed., *Creation in the Old Testament*  
B. Batto, *Slaying the Dragon: Mythmaking in the Biblical Tradition*  
D. E. Callender, Jr., *Adam in Myth and History: Ancient Israelite Perspectives on the Primal Human*  
R. J. Clifford and J. J. Collins, eds., *Creation in the Biblical Traditions*  
F. M. Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic*  
J. Day, *God’s Conflict with the Dragon and the Sea*  
D. N. Freedman, ed., *The Anchor Biblical Dictionary*  
C. Kloos, *Yhwh’s Combat with the Sea*  
E. Leach, *Genesis as Myth and Other Essays*  
E. Leach and D. A. Aycock, *Structuralist Interpretations of Biblical Myth*  
J. D. Levenson, *Creation and the Persistence of Evil: the Jewish Drama of Divine Omnipotence*  
S. Niditch, *Chaos to Cosmos: Studies in Biblical Patterns of Creation*  
R. A. Oden, *The Bible Without Theology*  
J. W. Rogerson, *Myth in Old Testament Interpretation*  
S. Shaked, ed., *Genesis and Regeneration: Essays on Conceptions of* |
Origins
M. S. Smith, *The Origins of Biblical Monotheism*
K. van der Toorn *et al.*, *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible*
G. E. Wright, *The Old Testament Against Its Environment*


**ENCYCLOPEDIA:** J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (in SSH Library Reference)
## ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY
### STUDY GUIDE

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B. Malinowski  V. Propp
C. Lévi-Strauss  R. Girard
P. Radin
M. Eliade
Euhemerism
W. R. Smith
Myth and Ritual
S. Freud  Polytheism
C. G. Jung
J. Campbell  Monotheism

These are the myths I expect you to be able to summarize, plus a rough approximation of the number of sentences I think that should take.

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Kronos myth from Philo of Byblos 6
Israelite Combat Myth (e.g., as summarized by Cassuto) 10
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