

Mythology and Rick Riordan (87631)

Instructor

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Faculty Mentor

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Office Hours

By Appointment

Course Description

In this course we will read and understand *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. We will be analyzing Riordan's way of making mythology accessible to a modern youth audience, as well as discussing what mythology is and how it changes with time and audience.

Course Expectations

I expect you to finish reading or rereading the book by the start of class in Week 4. You must come to class prepared to discuss the book and be prepared for learning activities that will help bring the book to life. By the end of the course, you should have a general understanding of how Riordan interprets mythology, what a myth is and how it applies to contemporary society, and how to appreciate *The Lightning Thief* from a mythological perspective.

Required Text

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Assorted Handouts

Grading

This course is a 1-unit Pass/No Pass course. Your Grade will be composed of your score on two short quizzes, a short essay, and your class participation.

Quizzes

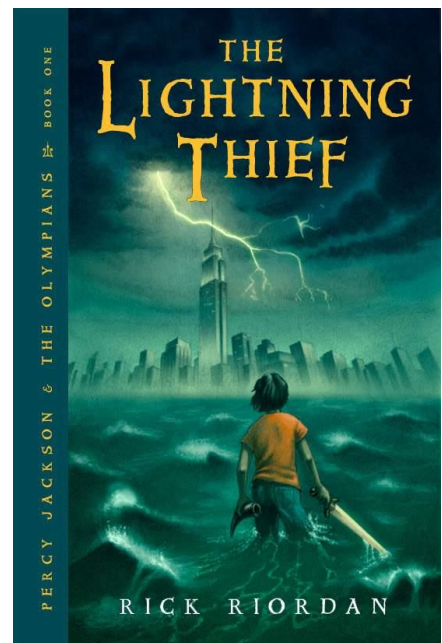
The quizzes will be administered over EEE to test on reading and understanding of the book. Quiz #1 will be a multiple choice, 13 question quiz on the content of the book. Quiz #2 will be a short answer response in which you will be given a list of 6 characters from the book and must choose one to write about in a short, 5-6 sentence paragraph.

Short Essay

The essay will be due the last day of class. The paper must be 2-3 pages double spaced. The essay will be on one myth that Riordan interpreted and incorporated into *The Lightning Thief*. More details about the prompt and format of the paper will be disclosed as we get closer to the end of the course.

Class Participation

Participation is very important in this class because it is discussion based. Each day will count as a portion of your Participation grade. If you are absent or significantly late, this will affect your participation grade. Also, some days we will



have in class worksheets which will boost your participation grade. If you must miss a course, please inform me via e-mail as soon as possible to negotiate a way for you to make up participation points. Multiple unexplained absences and/or absences that are not made up with my approval can be grounds for a No Pass in the course.

Prerequisites:

This course requires no previous knowledge, major, or set of classes outside what UCI requires for entering undergraduates.

Electronics Policy:

No computer, cell phones, or electronics of any kind are necessary nor will they be allowed unless otherwise specified.

Policy on Academic Honesty:

Engaging in Academic Dishonesty is a serious offense. Disciplinary action will be based on the UCI Academic Senate policies on Academic Honesty, which is automatically assumed you will have read. Please refer to the UCI General Catalogue.

Add/Drop Policy:

The Add/Drop Policy for this course is that Adds and Drops must be submitted prior to the end of the second week of classes. No drops will be accepted after Week 2.

Disability Accommodation:

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Center at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

UTeach Course Policy:

UCI students may take at most two UTeach seminars in their entire time as an undergrad. The registrar won't prevent you from enrolling in a third, but the third one (and any others) will show up on your transcript as an "unauthorized repeat."

Course Schedule

Week	Subject	Homework / Reminders
Week 1	Introductions/Syllabus What is a Myth?	Read or Re-Read <i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Week 4 Complete through Chapter 8 (127 pages)
Week 2	Why are Myths relevant? Who is Rick Riordan?	Read or Re-Read <i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Week 4 Complete through Chapter 15 (115 pages) Read Hero's Journey Handout
Week 3	The Hero's Journey: Overview of <i>The Lightning Thief</i> in the terms of Joseph Campbell	Read or Re-Read <i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Next Week Complete through Chapter 22 (112 pages) EEE Quiz Due Next Week!
Week 4	Quiz #1 Due Understanding Character: Percy and Annabeth	Think about who your godly parent would be. Be prepared to discuss why next week!
Week 5	Camp Half-Blood Which Cabin Are You?	Be Prepared to discuss your favorite part of Percy's Quest next week!
Week 6	Percy's Quest: Greatest Hits	Be Prepared to watch clips from a terrible movie next week!
Week 7	The Movie: Pros and Cons	EEE Quiz Due Next Week!
Week 8	Quiz #2 Due Going Over the Final Paper Magical Items	Read Vergil Book 4 Handout
Week 9	The Underworld	Final Paper Due Next Week!
Week 10	Final Essay Due What We Learned 😊	Have a Great Summer!