Great Mythologies of the World
Course# 302 Part 1of 2

In Great Mythologies of the World, you’ll travel through space and time to access some of the greatest myths in history from Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. You’ll examine what makes these famous stories so important, distinctive, and able to withstand the test of time. You’ll also discover how, despite geographical implausibility’s, many myths from across the oceans share themes, morals, and archetypes.

Part 1  Ancient Europe
Mondays   9.30 – 11.25 am
Feb 25, Mar 4,11,25 (Spring break) Apr 1,8

Ancient Europe
Epic battles between titanic gods. Perilous quests for lost treasures and the comfort of home. Magical items imbued with the power to protect—and destroy. The great myths of ancient Europe are a treasure trove of stories that have transfixed us for thousands of years.

But whether it’s the near-impossible labors of the ancient Greek hero Herakles, the violent founding of Rome by the wolf-raised brothers Romulus and Remus, or the cosmic exploits of the hammer-wielding Norse thunder god Thor, there’s so much more to ancient Europe’s myths than just entertainment and wonder. When looked at closely, these tales actually open wide windows on the cultures that produced them. They reveal how ancient Greeks, Romans, Scandinavians, and other European civilizations:
Class Schedule February 25

• The Titans in Greek Mythology
• Complex Goddesses: Athena, Aphrodite, Hera
• Gods and Humanity in Greek thought

March 4

• Herakles and the Greek Hero
• Odysseus, Master of Schemes
• The Golden Fleece and the hero’s Return

March 11

• Romulus, Remus, and Rome’s Origin
• Roman Heroes and Traitors
• The Mother Goddesses in Rome and Beyond

March 25

• The Dagda’s Harp and other Celtic Myths
• Norse Tales of Odin and Thor
• Hammers, Rings, and other Norse Magic

April 1

• The World’s oldest Myth: Gilgamesh
• The Babylonian Creation Story
• Chaos and Order in Egypt

April 8

• Horus, Osiris and Ra
• Myths of the Pharaohs
• The Book of Job

Great Mythologies of the world (Part 2 of 2)

Mondays: 9.25 -11.25
April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20
Course# 303
With Great Mythologies of the World: The Middle East and South Asia, you’ll fill a critical gap in your understanding of how human civilizations have relied on mythology—regardless of where they emerge. And in the process, you’ll also discover the sheer joy of imaginative cultural storytelling.

Africa

No course on world mythology is complete without considering the stories of Africa. While you may be familiar with some of the more well-known characters such as the spider Anansi, Great Mythologies of the World: Africa will explore a plethora of lesser-known characters and tales that seem remarkably familiar because the themes and lessons have permeated through great myths worldwide. Discover the fascinating variety and complexity of African myths, and meet the rich cultures that produced them.

The Mother of All Mythology

You could consider African myths as the mother of all mythology, as many of the African stories date back centuries before the better-known myths of Greek and Rome. Although initially maligned as “primitive,” African mythology is overflowing with the types of brave heroes, beautiful maidens, fearsome battles, mischievous tricksters, and captivating tales of triumph and heartbreak that are the foundation for all of the dramatic stories, fairytales, and fables we know and love today. Ripe with deep thought and cherished ideals of civilization, African mythology has had a profound impact on how our world has come to be.

Explore how African mythology shares, and likely inspired, many of the themes found in myths worldwide. Origin stories, tricksters, tales of vengeance, and other well-known patterns woven through the tapestry of stories worldwide can be traced back to some of the first known myths from Africa. We’ll look in depth at Africa’s great epic tradition, and how the dramatic and powerful stories
April 15
• The Great Indian Epics
• The Bhagavat Gita
• Stories of the Buddha

April 22
• Persia’s Book of Kings
• One thousand- and one-Night Tales
• Tales of Flood and Fire

April 29
• The Beauty of African Mythology
• African creation Stories
• African Religious Cosmology

May 6
• Tricksters of Africa
• Africa’s Gods and Humanity
• Close Encounters with African Divinities

May 9
• Cultural Heroes of African Myth
• The African Morality Tale
• The Dausi and African Epics

May 13
• The Epic of Bakaridjan Kone
• Death and the Afterlife in African Myth
• African Heroes in the Underworld