

William Propp
Spring, 2009

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY
HINE 113

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

Requirements: 2 six-page essays (25% each), 1 final ID examination (45%), class participation (5%)

Texts for purchase:

1. Stephanie Dalley, *Myths From Mesopotamia*
2. William W. Hallo and Walter Kelly Simpson, *The Ancient Near East*
3. Simon B. Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*
4. Robert A. Segal, *Myth, a Very Short Introduction*
5. Coursepack (at AS Soft Reserves) (cp)

Books on Geisel Library reserve (r):

1. *The Phoenician History of Philo of Byblos*, ed. Harold W. Attridge and Robert A. Oden,
2. C. Auffarth and L. T. Stuckenbruck, eds. *The Fall of the Angels*
3. Richard J. Clifford, *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible*
4. Neil Forsyth, *The Old Enemy*
5. Tikva Frymer-Kensky, *In the Wake of the Goddess*
6. Cyrus H. Gordon, *Forgotten Scripts*
7. Hesiod, *Theogony* (ed. M. L. West)
8. Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Treasures of Darkness*
9. Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once...*
10. G. S. Kirk, *Myth*
11. Risa Levitt Kohn and Rebecca Moore, *A Portable God*
12. Siegfried Morenz, *Egyptian Religion*
13. William H. C. Propp, *Exodus 1-18*
14. J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East IV* (also in Reference)
15. Neal Walls, *Desire, Discord and Death*
16. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*

Coursepack (cp)

Creation by Atum (Pritchard, 3-4)
 The Memphite Theology (Lichtheim, 1.51-57)
 Horus and Seth (Lichtheim, 2.214-223)
 Introduction, Song of Kumarbi (Hoffner, 38-43)
 Song of Ullikummi (Hoffner, 52-61)
 The Two Brothers (Lichtheim, 203-211)
 Kombabos (Attridge and Oden, 29-39)
 The Israelite Epic (Cassuto, 2.69-109)

Sources:

J. B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*.

M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature* (vols. 1 and 2)

H. A. Hoffner, *Hittite Myths*

H. W. Attridge and R. A. Oden, Jr., *De Dea Syria*

U. Cassuto, *Biblical and Oriental Studies*, vol. 2

1. Where and When is the Ancient Near East? What is Mythology? (3/30)
Read: Segal, chaps. 1-3
2. Myth and Science, Religion, Philosophy (4/1)
Read: Segal, chaps. 4-6
3. Myth and Ritual, Literature, Psychology (4/3)
Read: Segal, chaps. 7-Conclusion
4. Myth and Structure, Society (4/6)
Read: Hallo and Simpson, 184-296
5. Ancient Egyptian History (4/8)
Read: Creation by Atum (cp); The Memphite Theology (cp); Clifford, *Creation*, 99-113 (r)
6. Creation Myths (4/10)
Read: Horus and Seth (cp), Walls, *Desire*, 93-125 (r)
7. Horus and Seth (4/13)
Read: Hallo and Simpson, *Ancient*, 14-149
8. Ancient Mesopotamian History (4/15)
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 228-281; 1-38
9. Creation and Flood (4/17)
Read: Jacobsen, *Harps*, 1-84; Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 24-73 (r); Frymer-Kensky, *In the Wake*, 14-69 (r)
10. Inanna and Dumuzi (4/20)
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 182-188; 39-120; 136-153
11. Adapa, Gilgamesh (4/22)

- Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 154-181; Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 194-219 (r); Kirk, *Myth*, 132-171 (r)
12. Gilgamesh and the Underworld (4/24)
Read: Hurrians (Anchor Bible Dictionary, 3.335-338 [SSH reference]); Introduction (cp); Song of Kumarbi (cp); Song of Ullikummi (cp)
 13. Hurrian Mythology (4/27)
Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 1-80
 14. Kirta, Daniel (4/29)
Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 81-180
 15. Baal (5/1)
Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 181-228
 16. Minor Ugaritic Myths (5/4)
Read: Attridge and Oden, *Philo*, 1-71 (r)
 17. Phoenician Mythology; **Essay 1 due** (5/6)
Read: Hesiod's *Theogony* (r or online)
 18. Greek Mythology from the Near East- Hesiod (5/8)
Read: Levitt Kohn and Moore, 1-7, 21-32 (r)
 19. Israel and the Hebrew Bible (5/11)
Read: Isaiah 51:9-11; Habakkuk chap. 3; Psalms 74, 77, 89; Job chaps. 40-41; Cassuto, "The Israelite Epic" (cp)
 20. Israelite Myth (5/13)
Read: Exodus chaps. 15-17; Psalm 114; Revelation chaps. 8-13; Propp, *Exodus*, 554-562, 606-613; 620-622 (r)
 21. Myth Recycled: Red Sea, Restoration, Apocalyptic (5/15)
Read: Exodus chap. 2; Propp, *Exodus*, 155-160; 165-166 (r)
 22. The Foundling; the Disillusioned Prince (5/18)
Read: Read: The Two Brothers (cp); Kombabos (cp); Gang Ping (Wikipedia); Genesis chap. 39; Proverbs chap. 7
 23. The Chaste Youth (5/20)
Read: Forsyth, *Old Enemy*, pp. 441-455 (r); Propp, *Exodus*, 31-36 (r)
 24. The Hero (5/22)
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)
 25. Fallen Stars, the Birth of the Devil (5/27)
Read: Genesis chaps. 1-11
 26. Anti-myths of Creation (5/29)

- Read: Sasson, *Civilizations*, 2729-2789 (r)
27. Rediscovery of the Ancient Near East (6/1)
 Read: Gordon, *Forgotten Scripts*, 19-113 (r)
28. Decipherments (63)
29. General Summary (65)

FINAL Exam; Essay 2 due 6/12, 3-6 pm;

Your two essays will each analyze a myth from the ANE, applying one or more of the methods from Segal's book. You should do some background research in the library, consulting and citing 3-5 secondary sources. Alternatively, you may compare-contrast two myths, each in the context of its civilization, or discuss mythic sources of biblical literature. Always aim for depth rather than breadth.

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

S. H. Hooke, *Myth Ritual and Kingship: Essays on the Theory and Practice of*

Kingship in the Ancient Near East

J. B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*

P. Walcot, *Hesiod and the Near East*

Essays in J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*

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*

S. N. Kramer, ed., *Mythologies of the Ancient World*

S. N. Kramer, *Sumerian Mythology*

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*

R. E. Freedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*

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*

Journals: *Orientalia*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Ugarit-Forschungen*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Vetus Testamentum*, *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature*, *Biblica*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Revue biblique*, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*