

William Propp  
Spring 2013

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY  
HINE 113

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[wpropp@ucsd.edu](mailto: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
3. James B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Related to the Old Testament* BS1180 .P83 1992
4. Richard J. Clifford, *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible* BL325.C7 C55 1994
5. *Plutarch's De Iside et Osiride*; edited by J. Gwyn Griffiths  
PA4368 .D47 1970

- 6.Neal Walls, *Desire, Discord and Death* BL1060 .W34 2001
- 7.S. N. Kramer, *Sumerian Mythology* PJ4047 .K7 1961
- 8.Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Treasures of Darkness* BL2350.I7 J3
- 9.S. Dalley, *Myths From Mesopotamia* BL1620 .M98 2000
- 10.G. S. Kirk, *Myth* BL311 .K55
- 11.M. D. Coogan, *Stories From Ancient Canaan* PJ4150.Z95 E5  
1978
12. Simon B. Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry* PJ4150.Z95 E5  
1997
- 13.Hesiod, *Theogony* (ed. M. L. West) PA4010.E5 T5 1988
14. *The Phoenician History of Philo of Byblos*, ed. Harold W.  
Attridge and Robert A. Oden BL1660 .P4813
- 15.Risa Levitt Kohn and Rebecca Moore, *A Portable God*  
BM602.K64 2007
- 16.Umberto Cassuto, *Biblical and Oriental Studies, vol. 2*  
BS1192 .C3613 v.2
- 17.William H. C. Propp, *Exodus 1-18* BS192.2.A1 1964 .G3
- 18.Neil Forsyth, *The Old Enemy* BL480 .F67 1987
- 19.C. Auffarth and L. T. Stuckenbruck, eds. *The Fall of the Angels*  
BL480 .F35 2004
- 20.William H. C. Propp, "The Eunuch Steward" *International  
Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*
- 21.*The New Oxford Annotated Bible* BS191.5.A1 2001 N43

Electronic Reserves (**e-r**) - password wp113

- 1.Creation by Atum (James B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern  
Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 3-4)
- 2.The Memphite Theology (Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian  
Literature* 1.51-57)
- 3.Richard J. Clifford, *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East  
and in the Bible*, 99-113
- 4.Horus and Seth, (Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian  
Literature* 2.214-223)
- 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)
- 9.Simon B. Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*, 181-228

10. Risa Levitt Kohn and Rebecca Moore, *A Portable God*, xi-42

11. The Israelite Epic (Umberto Cassuto, *Biblical and Oriental Studies*, 2.69-109)

12. The Two Brothers (Lichtheim, 2.203-211)

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

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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](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
8. Myth and Structure, Society **(4/17)**  
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
11. Sumerian Nature Mythology **(4/24)**  
Read: Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 24-73 (r)
12. Inanna and Dumuzi **(4/26)**  
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 182-188; 39-120; 136-153
13. Adapa, Gilgamesh **(4/29)**  
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 154-181; Kirk, *Myth*, 132-171 (r)
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 Ullikummiss (e-r)
16. Hurrian Mythology **(5/6)**  
Read: Coogan, *Stories*, 1-74
17. Kirta, Daniel **(5/8)**  
Read: Coogan, *Stories* 75-115
18. Baal (5/8) **(5/10)**  
Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 181-228 (e-r)
19. Minor Ugaritic Myths **(5/13)**  
Read: Hesiod's *Theogony* <http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hesiod/theogony.htm>

20. Greek Mythology from the Near East- Hesiod **(5/15)**  
Read: Attridge and Oden, *Philo*, 1-71 (r); Lucian, *De Dea Syria* §§ 12-13 <http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/luc/tsg/tsg07.htm>
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)
24. Myth Recycled: Red Sea, Restoration, Apocalyptic **(5/24)**  
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)**

29. Summation (6/6)

**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*

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

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*  
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*

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*

ENCYCLOPEDIA: J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*  
(in SSH Library Reference)



ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY  
STUDY GUIDE

Upper Egypt	Sargon (the Great)
Lower Egypt	Cuneiform
Old Kingdom	Early Dynastic Period
Middle Kingdom	Tigris
New Kingdom	Euphrates
Hieroglyphic	Uruk
Hieratic	Hammurapi
Demotic	Hatti/Hittites
Nile	Hurrians
Hyksos	Enuma Elish
Syncretism	Apsu
Amarna	Tiamat
Akhenaten	An
Osiris	Ea
Horus	Enki
Seth	Marduk
Isis	Qingu
Nephthys	Atrahasis
Geb	Enlil/Ellil
Nut	Belet-ili
Shu	Mami
Tefnut	Aruru
Atum	Ishtar
Primordial mound	Inanna
Ptah	Dumuzi/Tammuz
Re	Geshtinanna
Hathor	Adapa
Nun	Gilgamesh
Ennead	Ninsun
Ogdoad	Enkidu
Mesopotamia	Shamhat
Sumer	Shamash
Akkad	Utnapishtim
Babylonia	Bull of Heaven
Assyria	Ur-shanabi
Nineveh	Humbaba

Siduri  
Kumarbi  
Tessub  
Ullikummi  
Ugarit  
El  
Baal  
Haddu  
Athirat/ Asherah  
Anat  
Kirta  
Yassib  
Aqhat  
Daniel  
Huraya  
Kothar and Khasis  
Paghit  
Yamm  
Mot  
Shapsh  
Dawn and Dusk  
Yarikh  
Phoenicia  
Philo of Byblos  
Sanchuniathon  
Tautos  
Elioun  
Ouranos  
Ge  
Kronos  
Rhea  
Muth  
Hesiod  
Prometheus  
Zeus  
Hera  
Titan  
Typhoeus

Torah  
Judah  
Israel  
Canaan  
Yahweh  
Elohim  
Leviathan  
Rahab  
The Serpent/Dragon  
Birth of Sargon  
Combabus  
Galli  
Anubis  
Bata  
Joseph  
Potiphar  
Satan  
Lucifer  
Athtar  
Sons of God  
Helel  
Phaethon  
Watchers  
Jubilees  
Enoch  
Yahwist (J)  
Priestly Writer (P)  
Adam  
Eve  
Cain  
Abel  
Seth  
Lamech  
Noah  
Tower of Babel  
E. B. Tylor  
J. G. Frazer  
L. Lévy-Bruhl

B. Malinowski	V. Propp
C. Lévi-Strauss	R. Girard
P. Radin	
M. Eliade	Polytheism
Euhemerism	
W. R. Smith	Pantheism
Myth and Ritual	
S. Freud	Monolatry
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.

Creation by Atum	5
Memphite Theology	5
Isis and Osiris	15
Horus and Seth	10
Descent of Inanna/Ishtar	8
Inanna and Dumuzi	8
Adapa	5
Gilgamesh	20
Atra-hasis	12
Kingship in Heaven	4
Ullikummi	5
Kirta	9
Aqhat	15
Baal Epic	22
Kronos myth from Hesiod	6
Kronos myth from Philo of Byblos	6
Israelite Combat Myth (e.g., as summarized by Cassuto)	10
Tale of Two Brothers	15
Legend of Combabus/Kombabos	7
Birth legend of Sargon	4
Birth legend of Moses	4
Genesis 6:1-4 (sons of God)	4
Isaiah 14 (fall of Helel)	4
Genesis 1 (Creation in P)	6

## Genesis 2-3 (Garden of Eden) 10