

# Syllabus

## Mythology

**Heritage Academy**  
**A University-Model® School**

*The mission of Heritage Academy, a Certified University-Model School®, is to partner with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.*

### **I. Course Purpose and Content**

This course will provide an overview of Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology, enabling students to become literate in their knowledge of mythical characters and events. This course will equip students to recognize and explain the significance of current-day references to ancient myth. Students will also examine the worldview assumptions reflected in ancient myths and will compare and contrast what they find to Biblical worldview.

### **II. Worldview Integration**

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching subjects in such a way that students develop a Biblical worldview out of which to think and act. The following foundational, Biblical truths undergird the study of mythology:

- Stories convey values and ideas; they reflect the power of imagination and the longings of the heart, which testify to mankind made in the image of God. Stories invite us to wonder and to hope or to fear and to dread, and the stories a person lives by ultimately shape his or her sense of identity and future (Joel 1:3).
- Understanding the stories we tell ourselves and the stories of other cultures allows us to discern worldview and lovingly confront false ideas and assumptions by considering *the* Story that tells us who we really are and where we have come from and where we are going (Acts 17:22-31; II Timothy 2:24).
- Stories also invites us to observe how choice leads to consequence to how wisdom is the antidote to folly (Luke 19:11-28).

*"So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. <sup>23</sup> For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; <sup>26</sup> and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' <sup>29</sup> Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. <sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:22-31).*

### **III. Required Texts & Materials**

Please reference *Required Text Book List* and *Course Supplies List* for the appropriate academic year to identify the textbooks and supplies students will need for this course. Both the Required Text Book List and Course Supplies List are accessible online.

#### IV. Course Guidelines/Student Requirements

##### A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment.

Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence.

As communicated in Heritage Academy's Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that a secondary student has attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

##### B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student's absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student's return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the students' absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.**

Late work that is submitted simply "late" will be graded and penalized with a **ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late**; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student's parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family's control.

##### C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed)
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.
- 5) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates, in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
- 6) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 7) Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion
- 8) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.

- 9) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: “. . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:12).

#### D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Daily home-assignments will be outlined on the weekly Home-Communication Sheet the student will receive each Monday. The student can expect to invest approximately 1.75 to 2.5 hours each week completing coursework at home in preparation for class periods. Course assignments may include any of the following:

- **Reading and responsive analysis or reflection** (written or oral)
- **Culture Searches, Writing, Special Projects**  
Students will conduct regular “culture searches” in which they will find and explain references to mythology embedded in a variety of cultural expressions. Students will also write two to four one to two page papers, both analytical and creative, throughout the course of the semester.
- **Memorization**
- **Dialogue**  
Student may be instructed to discuss and/or explore certain topics or concepts with a parent. These assignments will be given purposefully and should not be dismissed.
- **Preparation for Tests and Quizzes**  
Students may be instructed to review notes, various texts, previously completed quizzes/tests, scripture verses and/or to complete review questions or study guides etc., in preparation for tests.
- **Other Assignments**  
Additional types of assignments may be given throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

#### D. Assessments

Students will be take at *least* six quizzes throughout the course of the semester; one or two longer tests may be given as well. Student will take a comprehensive semester final before the close of the semester. Students will conduct regular “culture searches” in which they will find and explain references to mythology that may be found in a variety of cultural expressions. Students will also write two to four one to two page papers, both analytical and creative, throughout the course of the semester.

#### E. Grades

<b>Grade Apportionment</b>		<b>Grading Scale</b>	
Assignments, In Class Projects	50%	100-95...A	76-73...C
Quizzes	20%	90...A-	72-70...C-
Semester Exam	30%	89-87...B+	59 or below... F
		86-83...B	
		82-80...B-	

The cumulative semester grade that the student has earned by the end of the semester will be the grade that is recorded on the student’s transcript. To achieve a passing grade, the student must fulfill attendance requirements and achieve a semester percentage grade that is at or above 70%.

## V. Parent Responsibilities

### A. Embrace the University-Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- ◆ to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships
- ◆ to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School<sup>®</sup>, designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

### B. Fulfill the Parent Role

Within the University-Model School<sup>®</sup>, **parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course** in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of "**Guide for Dependent Study.**"

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits and strategies for managing time must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

### C. Monitoring Gradelink

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded in **Gradelink** for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Gradelink, missing assignments will also be noted by an "M." Please take time to follow your student's progress on Engrade so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

### D. Attend Parent/Teacher Fellowship

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship that is scheduled to occur the 7<sup>th</sup> week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student's progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students' success within the University Model<sup>®</sup>.

## VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class or may be found in the school directory.