

# Course Information Sheet

## Exploring Myth & Legend



**Course Summary:** Embark on a captivating exploration of myths and legends, delving into their cultural significance and enduring impact on human understanding.

### Course Description:

This 8-week course invites you to unravel the mysteries and symbolism behind ancient myths and legends. Through lectures, group work, and written tasks, you'll journey through diverse cultures, uncovering the origins of human beliefs and societal structures.

Explore the power of storytelling and its influence on literature, art, and popular culture. Learn to identify key themes and archetypes that transcend time and cultures, and gain a deeper understanding of the human experience through the lens of mythology.

### What will I learn?

#### Week 1:

- Define and differentiate myths, legends, and folklore.
- Introduction to the course and its scope.
- Discussion of animism and its role in mythology.
- Group project on mythical monsters (Centaur/Satyr, World Serpent/Hydra/Dragons, Harpies/Sirens).

#### Week 2:

- Explore creation mythology (cosmogony) from various cultures (Egypt, Greece/Rome, Norse).
- Discuss descriptions of the afterlife in contemporary religion.

- Group work session.

#### Week 3:

- Examine mythological visions of the afterlife (eschatology).
- Discuss the nature of the afterlife, underworlds, heavens, hells, and journeys to the underworld.
- Explore rewards and punishments in the afterlife, and who decides them.
- Discuss reincarnation and its presence in various mythologies.
- Group work session.

#### Week 4:

- Learn about ruling and warrior deities in different pantheons.
- Discuss hierarchies in pantheons (Norse, Egyptian, Babylonian) and the credentials of ruling deities.
- Explore battle gods and goddesses (Morrigan, Mars, Thor, Athena, Ares) and their significance.
- Group work session.

#### Week 5:

- Discover fertility deities and their connection to agriculture, nature, and human reproduction.
- Explore Greek myths of civilization (Demeter and Persephone, Dionysus).
- Discuss female fertility deities (Diana, Isis, Frigg) and male fertility deities (Min, Priapus, Hermes).
- Group work session.

#### Week 6:

- Uncover the archetypal hero's journey, quests, and legendary figures in mythology.
- Discuss the concept of a hero and their role in legends.

- Explore famous quests and legendary weapons (Holy Grail, Golden Fleece, Labors of Hercules, Thor's hammer, Excalibur, Perseus's equipment).
- Group work session.

#### Week 7:

- Explore the world of magic, wizards, witches, and enchanted beings in mythology.
- Discuss famous witches (Medea, Morgan le Fey, Baba Yaga) and wizards (Merlin, Hermes, Odin).
- Explore different types of enchantments and enchanted places.
- Group work session.

#### Week 8:

- Investigate the symbolism and cultural significance of monsters and mythical beasts.
- Group presentations on monsters.
- Presentation on supernatural beasts, zoomorphism, anthropomorphism, and their development.

#### **How will I be assessed?**

- Formative: Active participation in class discussions and group projects throughout the course.
- Summative: A final presentation on a chosen mythical monster or supernatural beast, and a written analysis of its cultural significance.

#### **Who is this course for?**

This course is designed for anyone with an interest in mythology, folklore, and the power of storytelling, regardless of prior knowledge.

#### **Progression Opportunities:**

Upon completion, learners can explore further educational opportunities in mythology, comparative religion, anthropology, or history. Consider pursuing higher education programs or specialized courses in these fields.

#### **Career or Job Enhancement Pathways:**

- Teaching: Share your passion for mythology with others as an educator.
- Research: Contribute to the field of mythology through academic research and writing.
- Creative Writing: Use your knowledge of myths and legends to craft compelling stories and narratives.
- Cultural Tourism: Guide tours and share insights into the mythological significance of historical sites and landmarks.

#### **How do I enrol?**

The quickest way to enrol is online at [www.oucoursesouthwest.co.uk](http://www.oucoursesouthwest.co.uk), simply create an account and select 'Enrol now'. Alternatively, if you have any questions, please call our friendly customer service team on 01752 660713.

#### **How will the course be delivered?**

This is a practical course, and the sessions will include tutor-led demonstrations, learner-led group activities, instruction and repetition. These will form part of the delivery together with one-to-one support as required.

#### **Will I need to practise outside the classroom?**

You will be encouraged to review your notes between lessons to ensure maximum benefit from your course. It is always useful to practise your skills between sessions. Your tutor may encourage home learning, or independent research.

#### **How will I know I'm making progress?**

During the first session, your tutor will discuss your goals and current level in relation to the course. Based on this assessment, you will agree individual targets which you will record in your individual learning plan (ILP). You and your tutor will review your targets regularly to ensure that you are making progress; these will be written in your individual learning plan.

#### **What will I need?**

Please bring a notepad, and pen to each session. You may wish to bring a file for any handouts. A laptop with internet access is required for completion of coursework and home learning outside of the classroom.

**Please note:**

Most courses attract a subsidy from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It is a requirement of the ESFA that you complete various forms at different stages of your course, further information is available on request. Courses are subject to a minimum number of enrolments and could be cancelled if recruitment is low. In some cases, an alternative class at a different location may be offered.

Terms and conditions are available at

<https://www.onsouthwest.co.uk/learner-information/essential-information-for-every-learner>

Room numbers are subject to change - please check when you arrive at the venue.

