

UC 12100 12F

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

APPROVED DEC 05 2012

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: Lang/Phil/Culture Effective Fall 2014

or Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: English College: CLASS
 2. Faculty Contact Person: Paul Butler Telephone: 3-1758 Email: pbutler@central.uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
ENGL / 2340 / Cosmic Narratives
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
ENGL / 2340 / COSMIC NARRATIVES
 • SCH: 3.00 Level: SO CIP Code: 2301010001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
 5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
 If Yes, please complete:

• Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
 ___ / ___ / ___
 • Course ID: ___ Effective Date (currently active row): ___

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): ___
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
 • Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
ENGL / 2340 / Cosmic Narratives
 • Course ID: 47609 Effective Date (currently active row): 8222011

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 or equivalent. Description (30 words max.): Narrative history of the Universe from its beginnings to the present emphasizing relevance of cosmic narratives to human situation.

10. Dean's Signature: _____ Date: 10/8/12

Print/Type Name: Sarah Fishman

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Department of English

Person Making Request: Dr. Paul Butler

Telephone: (713) 743-1758

Email: pbutler@Central.UH.edu

Dean's Signature: _____

Date: 9/18/2012

Course Number and Title: English 2340/ILAS 2360, Cosmic Narratives

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

- Students will be able to recognize and demonstrate basic science literacy as well as the narrative organization of knowledge as it applies to the humanities and to the presentation of scientific knowledge about the Universe and the emergence and development of modern humans.
- Students will be able to identify the elements of cosmic narratives in myth and literature prior to the new cosmic narratives of modern science.
- Students will be able to relate and explain how expressions of human values and ideas are expressed within the pre-science cosmic narratives of their relevant historical and social contexts.
- Students will apply correct citation and documentation skills for writing research essays.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political

Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Sample Assignment

Select one of the Ten Cosmic Narratives from the Sciences and conduct research in that area using literary and scientific works from both pre-scientific times and the modern era of science. Write a documented argument citing both supporting and opposing views about a position you take concerning the area of science you chose and demonstrate how this area, both in literature and science, has had an impact on cultural development and human experience in the contemporary world.

Students will practice critical thinking skills as they explore the research and find supporting and opposing views as evidence in their essay.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Communication Skills:

Through the above assignment, students will effectively communicate their ideas through their written work.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Teamwork:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Social Responsibility:

Through the above assignment, students will be given time to discuss the social responsibility practiced by science in the development of the areas within the larger global community.

Personal Responsibility:

Through the above assignment, students will discuss their responsibility and the personal responsibility practiced by others.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course? Yes x No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature:  

SYLLABUS FOR ENGLISH 2340/ILAS 2360
COSMIC NARRATIVES

Instructor Name:		Section Number:	XXXXX
Office Location:	XXXX	Meeting Time:	XXXXXX
Office Hours:	XXXXXXXX	Class Location:	XXXXXX
Office Phone:	713-743-XXXX	Email Address:	
Blackboard Site:	www.uh.edu/blackboard		

Prerequisite for the course – English 1304

Course Goals and Methods:

English 22340/ILAS 2360 satisfies 3 hours of the U of H core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy & Culture. The catalog describes this Foundational Component Area as follows: “Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.”

Core Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student Learning Outcomes (based on individual class)

- Students will be able to recognize and demonstrate basic science literacy as well as the narrative organization of knowledge as it applies to the humanities and to the presentation of scientific knowledge.
- Students will be able to identify the elements of cosmic narratives in myth and literature prior to the emergence of new cosmic narratives of modern science.
- Students will be able to relate and explain how expressions of human values and ideas are expressed within the pre-scientific cosmic narratives of their relevant historical and social contexts.
- Students will apply correct citation and documentation skills for writing research essays.

Required Texts

Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (2003)
Goodall, Jane. *In the Shadow of Man* (1971)
Johanson, Donald. *Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind* (1981)
Sproul, Barbara C. *Primal Myths: Creation Myths Around the World* (1979)
Hesiod. *Theogony* (8th c. BCE)
Landau, Misia. *Narratives of Human Evolution* (Yale 1991)

Course Requirements

- Readings: Students are expected to complete the reading of all assigned texts.
- Attendance: Prompt arrival at class and regular attendance is expected.
- Deadlines: Deadlines are set to spread assignments evenly throughout the course, and thus to assure that work can be completed without undue stress toward the end of the course.
- Cell Phones: Cell phones should be turned off. No texting permitted during class.
- Laptops: These are permitted for taking notes. Reading/writing e-mail not permitted.
- Academic Honesty: Honesty in tests, course postings, and research essays is expected according to standards set out in (a) accepted styles (MLA, APA) for responsible presentation of research, and (b) the University of Houston Academic Honesty Policy.
- Incompletes: Incompletes are subject to university policy: they are granted only for students who have completed all required work with passing grades through the first 10-12 weeks of the course but have encountered sudden, unavoidable personal or medical problems that make completion of the course in a timely manner impossible. Documentation supporting claims of crises is required. Incompletes will not be granted as an extension of time to complete assignments beyond the date when grades are due.
- Withdrawals: Withdrawals should occur only after careful review of the overall situation of the student since they are subject to Texas Coordinating Board rules limiting withdrawals to six (6) during an academic career.

Academic Support Services

"In compliance with the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the **Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD)** provides 'reasonable and necessary' testing accommodations for qualified students with health impairments, physical limitations, psychiatric disorders, and learning disabilities." Students who want to know more about these services should consult the Student Handbook, or should contact CSD in Room 110 of the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES (building #568), 713-743-5400 (voice) or 713-749-1527 (TTY); www.uh.edu/csd.

Learning Support Services

For help on the mechanics of papers (grammar, punctuation, etc.), students should visit Learning Support Services now located in Cougar Village, room N 109.

The Writing Center

For help with developing ideas, thesis development, and so forth, students should visit the University of Houston Writing Center located in 210-217 Agnes Arnold Hall.

Grading

40 points – five postings to the course blackboard on specific topics based on readings from the assigned texts

40 points – tests and occasional quizzes

20 points – based on a visit to the Museum of Natural Science and written response to assigned observational topics: fossils, prehistoric skeletons, life forms, mineral origins, etc.

100 points – based on essays totaling 3,000 words with at least one done with the advice from a mentor.