

COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY

Methods and Madness

CMLT 24189 / CLCV 21919 / KNOW 24189 / RLST 24189

Winter 2020 | Mondays 2.30-5.20 in SIFK 104*



Comparative Mythology has been one of the most controversial disciplines in the Humanities. Interdisciplinarity at its finest and most erratic, different definitions of Comparative Mythology have found their roots in linguistics, psychology, the history of religions, structuralism, and many more hybrid fields. Haunted by the question of “What is Myth?” and equally concerned with the toolkits that allow us to make sense of myths, it has been the source of constant fascination. As we learn about Comparative Mythology, we will encounter myths from around the world. Readings will be drawn from Homer, Hesiod, Latin poetry and history, the Vedic Hymns, Epic Sanskrit, Norse poetry, Anatolian and Mesopotamian texts (such as Gilgamesh), Native American traditions, Chinese stories, and North African myths.

All required readings in English. Students will have the opportunity to work on any myths of their choosing for the final assignment. No pre-requisites.

For more information contact Claudio Sansone (sansone@uchicago.edu)

*SIFK is off the Main Quad @ 5737 S University Ave