DEEP ROOTS:
MYTHOLOGY AND US
Your Instructor

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• 76 years young

• Economist:
  – Human nature is predictable
  – Self interest, profit, control as human motivators
  – Sociology, human psychology, behavior
References


GILGAMESH: A New English Version by Stephen Mitchell


• Other material from the Internet, primarily Wikipedia.

• Various other references that I will mention via slides.
WEEK ONE

• ANCIENT ROOTS

THE ORIGINS OF MYTHOLOGY

• DEFINITIONS AND DIFFERENCES: MYTHOLOGY, RELIGION, FABLES AND LEGENDS
WEEK TWO

• CREATION – THE ORIGINS OF THE WORLD

• COSMIC ARCHITECTURE – STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE
Week Three

• HUMANITY – CAUSES OF LIFE AND DEATH

• SUPERNATURAL BEINGS – GODS, SPIRITS AND DEMONS
Week Four

• Dibs and Dabs
  – Cosmic Disasters and the End of the World
  – Heroes and Tricksters
WEEK FIVE

• GILGAMESH –
  – The oldest story in the world, a thousand years older than the Iliad of Homer or the Bible.
  – As relevant today as it was 4000 years ago.

  – Gives voice to grief, death, love, vulnerability the quest for wisdom, fundamentalism and jihad against what is perceived as an evil enemy.
BODY AND SOUL

WEEK SIX
WEEK SEVEN

• MYTHOLOGY DEVELOPS

• PAGANISM

• POLYTHESIM, MONOTHESIM

• MEDIEVAL TIMES
WEEK EIGHT

• MYTHOLOGY AND US

• WICCANS

• CULTS

• HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD
DEFINITIONS AND DIFFERENCES: MYTHOLOGY, RELIGION, FABLES AND LEGENDS
THE ORIGINS OF MYTHOLOGY
Ancient Roots: The Last Step

• We have gone from the formation of the Universe to mankind on the edge of agriculture.
Mythology and Religion

• A look at mythology, religion, logos and mythos from a secular perspective.
Logos

• Reason: in ancient Greek philosophy.

• The controlling principle in the universe.

• The “word of truth,” logical, pragmatic and scientific.

• Essentially practical and rational. It allows us to invent new technology and define mathematics; one plus one equals two.
MYTHOS: FIVE MINUTE QUIZ
Please note your answers

• Where did we come from?
• Who am I?
• What must I do in order to survive?
• What must I do to be good?
• How do I live my life under any circumstances?
• Where are we going?
• What happens when I die?
• Is mythology an inferior mode of thought?