Teacher: Ms. Shah  
Room: C209  
Phone: (520) 836-8500 x3649  
Email: hshah@cguhsd.org  
Website: http://www.hshahteaches.com  
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description: Mythology and Folklore is a semester-long course that focuses on mythical stories from different cultures. It will use short stories, videos, audios, and a variety of other media tools in order to teach students the literary content. Grammar, vocabulary, and essays will be reviewed and further mastery created. The class will be heavily driven by discussion, reader theaters, community learning, projects, and journals (written responses). There will also be a mini-research paper.

The course will include but is not limited to mythical and folkloric stories from the following cultures: Native American, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Hawaiian, Celtic, Norse, Greek/Roman

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The course will follow Common Core Curriculum (for more information, please visit: http://www.corestandards.org). An overview of skills that will be focused upon are:

- Textual analysis, including providing evidence and citing sources.
- Determining themes, as well as analyzing impact of literary elements and author intentions to a story and theme.
- Analyze and compare/contrast myths from different cultures.
- Connotative meanings and denotative meanings.
- Speaking and listening skills.
- Write, identify, and understand expository, informative, and functional texts.
- Research, gather, and synthesis resources and materials from varied sources.
- Support an argument and construct a thesis statement in parallel structure.
- Go through the Writing Process to strengthen written work.
- Use technology, outside sources, and multi-modal sources to present ideas and information.
- Discuss and share input using collaborative skills.

GRADING SYSTEM:
Grades will be computed on a point system consisting of the traditional letter grades:

A: 100-90%  
B: 89-80%  
C: 79-70%  
D: 69-60%  
F: 59% and below

Please Note: A zero is recorded for each missing assignment and will remain a zero until the work is submitted. If an assignment is turned in late, it will go on the bottom of the pile and the zero may remain until it is graded.

CLASSROOM RULES:
I expect my students to be leaders in their own learning. What you get out of this class depends on what you put into it. I cannot “make you” learn anything. We are a learning community! Come into class with an inquisitive and open mind, and a smile! ☺

1. Be here and on time. “On time” means in the classroom when the tardy bell rings. If you are more than 10 minutes late, the tardy becomes an unexcused absence.

2. Be respectful. Respect yourself, your classmates, and the teacher; respect the room we are using and clean up after yourself. Raise your hand if you have a request and wait to be called upon to begin talking. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell. Students may only pack up when the teacher gives permission.

3. Be responsible and control your outcome. Complete work with honesty, effort, and thoroughness. Use your planner/calendar and check the whiteboards for assignments. Turn in neat and complete work by the due date and seek the teacher’s help if you do not understand course content or objectives.

4. Be safe. Be conscious of your choices and decisions. Purposefully choose things so that the results will not endanger you, your classmates, or your teachers.
5. **Be prepared for class!** Bring your classroom supplies. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get the work that has been listed on the agenda. Check the “Pick Up Missed Work” folders first. If you are still confused, ask the teacher (during a time that does not interrupt class).

**FOOD POLICY:**
In order to keep the classroom clean and accessible to all the students and the teacher, uncovered drinks and food of any type is not permitted in the classroom. Students may bring a water or soda/drink bottle with a leak-proof lid. Documented medical needs will be addressed on an individual basis.

**DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (all subject to severity of offense)**
- **1st offense**: The “look” or a verbal warning; redirection.
- **2nd offense**: Behavior Action Plan written and signed by student and teacher; call home.
- **3rd offense**: Discipline Referral and call home.

**ABSENCES / MAKE-UP / RETAKE POLICY**
- You are responsible for making up your own work.
- You may look in the “Pick-up Missed Work” class folders for missed work according to the day (they are located near the teacher’s desk), or get notes from a classmate.
- Another resource to check what you missed is the class website. The URL is [http://www.hshahteaches.com](http://www.hshahteaches.com). It is usually updated by 6:00 PM.
- To make up missed instruction, student must schedule an appointment with the teacher or come in for help during Reteach.
- For all **excused** (documented) absences, the student has the same amount of time missed from class in which to make up work (e.g. 1 day missed = 1 day to turn in work, retake tests, etc.). Tests MUST be made up within 1 week of excused absence, or the score will become a zero.
- If the student has an **unexcused** absence, the student will not receive credit for late work.
- **Weekly assessments and tests (except for Pre-Tests, Midterms, and Finals)** with a score of “D” or “F” can be retaken **once** for a better score. The higher score will be used.
- Excessive absences and/or tardies will result in parent contact.

**LATE WORK/ACCEPTABLE WORK**
- You will be given three “Late Homework Passes” each quarter.
- These passes can be used to turn in work **up to two days past the deadline and still receive full credit**.
- If work is not turned in with a “Late Homework Pass” or a note from a parent/guardian, **I DO NOT ACCEPT IT!** I will not issue new passes if you lose yours.
- If you have an excused absence, you can turn in work without it being late (please see “Absences Policy” above).
- The Late Homework Passes **DO NOT** give you an automatic score; you must still complete the assignment in order to receive credit. A Pass simply allows you to turn in an assignment late and still receive credit.
- In order for me to accept the work, the following criteria **must** be met: All work must be **neatly written**. The handwriting must be legible; the paper shouldn’t be torn or stained, etc. Only notes, worksheets, and rough drafts will be accepted in pencil, everything else must be written in **blue or black pen** (unless otherwise stated). **Your full name (first and last) MUST appear on the top of any work.** You will also lose points if you do not head your paper correctly.

**EXTRA CREDIT:**
- Extra credit will occasionally be available.
- Early turn-in is available on some homework assignments (these will be announced in class), and will **add 10% of the final score achieved on the homework** as extra credit to the assignment. All early turn-in assignments must be handed to Ms. Shah **DIRECTLY**, unless otherwise specified, in order for the extra credit to count.

**RETEACH / AIMS PREP:**
- Information will be given during class about this year’s Reteach and AIMS Prep policies.
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES
Students will be required to obtain* and bring the following materials for this class by ________________________:

- 1” 3-ring binder
- College ruled, hole punched paper (or college ruled notebook with perforated paper)
- 1 pen (blue or black ink) and 1 pencil with eraser
- Highlighter (Recommended: 3 highlighters in different colors)
- Kleenex/tissue box or hand sanitizer bottle (optional)
- Students may need to bring materials for classroom projects during the school year.

Class Contract: Academic Integrity

Plagiarism Policy

Definition
Plagiarism is defined as claiming or using another’s work as your own without proper attribution (credit). This act includes the copying of information word-for-word from any source, changing a few or some of the words by inserting synonyms, and/or representing an idea as your own without citing the source. Acts of plagiarism do not always have to be complete essays, reports, or projects, but a sentence, phrase, or two that are taken from another’s work and not properly cited. Plagiarism is also presenting someone else’s writing, ideas, music, or photography as one’s own without crediting sources.

How serious is this problem?
“A study of almost 4,500 students at 25 schools, suggests cheating is . . . a significant problem in high school - 74% of the respondents admitted to one or more instances of serious test cheating and 72% admitted to serious cheating on written assignments. Over half of the students admitted they have engaged in some level of plagiarism on written assignments using the Internet.” ~ Based on the research of Donald L. McCabe, Rutgers University

Two Types of Plagiarism

1. **Intentional**: This form of plagiarism on an assignment will receive an automatic zero, a note in their academic record, and disciplinary action to be determined by the administrative team. Teacher will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the student. *Examples include, but are not limited to:*
   - Copying a friend’s work
   - Buying or borrowing papers
   - Cutting and pasting blocks of text from sources without documenting (copy and pasting etc)
   - Media “borrowing” without documentation
   - Using direct quotes, but not placing them in quotations
   - Using information from a source, but not crediting the original source

2. **Unintentional**: This form of plagiarism on an assignment will receive an automatic zero, a possible note in their academic file and possible disciplinary action if deemed a serious offense by the teacher of record. Teacher will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the student. *Examples include, but are not limited to:*
   - Careless paraphrasing: where most of the words are those of the student.
   - Poor documentation
   - Quoting excessively
   - Failure to use your own “voice”

Rationale for academic integrity:

| 1) When you copy, you cheat yourself. You limit your own learning. | 5) Citing makes it possible for your readers to locate your source. |
| 2) The consequences are not worth the risks! | 6) Education is not an “us vs. them” game! It’s about learning to learn! |
| 3) It is only right to give credit to authors whose ideas you use. | 7) Cheating is unethical behavior! |
| 4) Citing gives authority to the information you present. | |

"NOTE: If you are unable to afford any of these supplies, please let me know or ask your parents to let me know, and we’ll arrange to get you prepared!"
Please complete the attached “Class Contract” with your Parent/Guardian and turn it in to me by: __________________

Class Contract
Ms. Shah – Mythology & Folklore

As a student, I understand the above policy and while in Ms. Shah’s class and completing assignments for her class, I will pursue my academic studies with integrity and honesty knowing that if I violate the classroom rules and procedures, as well as the plagiarism policy further action may be necessary. I have read the Syllabus and agree to comply with its expectations. Refusal to sign the Class Contract is still taken as an agreement to the class rules and procedures. I understand that changes to the Syllabus may be made and I will be verbally informed.

Student’s Name (print) ___________________________ Student’s Signature ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian FULL NAME (print) ___________________________ Relationship to student ___________________________

Daytime Phone Number ___________________________ Evening Phone Number ___________________________

E-Mail Address(es) (if any) ___________________________

When is the best time to call? Between the hours of ______________________AM / PM ______

What is the primary language spoken in the household? ___________________________

PERMISSION TO VIEW VIDEO CLIPS AND / OR MOVIES RELATED TO CLASS STUDY:

Occasionally, we will view videos to support our curriculum. Parent signature is required for students to view PG-13 movie features and all video clips longer than 10 minutes. Please be assured that the teacher will use professional discretion in the choice of these video materials, and if you have any questions, please feel free to inquire via phone or email. R-rated movies will require separate permission slips, which will be provided to the student if/as necessary.

As a parent I have read and understand the plagiarism policy, and will do my best to support an academic environment that is based upon honest, integrity, and excellence. I consent to my student watching PG-13 level movies and/or video clips in the classroom. I have read and understand the syllabus, and agree to contact Ms. Shah with any concerns.

Parent Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Printed Parent / Guardian Name ___________________________ Relationship to student ___________________________

(Continued on the back page.)