



PACIFICA  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

2015–2016 COURSE CATALOG

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M.A. and Ph.D. in Mythological Studies

Pacifica Graduate Institute is an accredited, employee-owned graduate school dedicated to excellence in education. The Institute's programs in psychology, the humanities, and mythological studies are informed by the rich tradition of depth psychology.

Depth psychology calls attention to the importance of what lies beneath the surface of conscious awareness. That vital importance is clearly revealed in the arts and literature of every culture, as well as through the dreams and collective symptoms of individuals and societies.

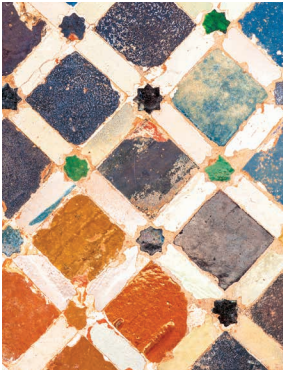
At Pacifica, leading scholars have developed a cutting-edge curriculum that meets the complex needs of a diverse student body. Educational formats include three- and four-day monthly learning sessions, and blended distance learning, low-residency degree programs.

The Institute's two campuses lie between the Pacific Ocean and Santa Ynez Mountains, a few miles south of Santa Barbara, California. Tranquil and beautiful, they form ideal settings for contemplation and study.

Pacifica was born during the cultural upheaval of the early 1970s—a time when existing paradigms were questioned and new ones came into being. That sense of innovation, coupled with an abiding respect for the power of ideas, has remained central to the Institute's culture and curriculum.

Pacifica is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). For gainful employment information, visit [pacifica.edu/gainfulemployment](http://pacifica.edu/gainfulemployment)

The information in this catalog is as accurate as possible at the time of publication; however, the Institute reserves the right to make changes during the life of this catalog.



# M.A. and Ph.D. in Mythological Studies

## WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY

By discerning the underlying similarities and threads in the world's myths and traditions, we better understand our shared humanity, while honoring the diverse ways human beings live and make meaning of their experience.

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**As the only doctoral program in the country** dedicated to the exploration of human experience through the interdisciplinary and multicultural study of myth, ritual, literature, art, and religion, Pacifica's Mythological Studies Program cultivates scholarship, self-inquiry, and imagination in those who seek to understand and express the depths of the psyche.

Renowned mythologist, professor, and author Joseph Campbell taught that myth has the power to touch our deepest creative energies, and to generate symbolic images that confer significance upon the complexity of modern life and history. It thrives on paradox, ambiguity, and the shape-shifting ways that metaphor informs and transforms our lives. Cultivating the mythic imagination leads to self-revelation and a profound and dynamic understanding of cultures—our own and others.

In this program, one's passion for mythological studies is invigorated and enriched by our esteemed faculty of distinguished scholars and inspired teachers who engage students in transformative learning with special emphasis on religious, literary, and depth psychological modes of inquiry through the influential works of Sigmund Freud, C.G. Jung, Marie-Louise von Franz, James Hillman, and Joseph Campbell. Graduates enrich their lives through the power of myth, and develop highly advanced and universal skill sets to succeed in wide ranges of professions in diverse fields, such as education, business, psychology, the arts, filmmaking, religion, politics, law, and community and environmental affairs.

The program is designed as an integrated M.A. and Ph.D. sequence with courses in four areas of study:

### Mythology and Religious Traditions

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#### Myth and Literature

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#### Depth Psychology and Culture

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#### Research

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### STUDENTS IN THE MYTHOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAM:

Investigate mythologies and cultural traditions through the lenses of religious studies, literature, and depth psychology.

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Discover recurring mythic themes in classic and contemporary literature, ritual, theater, art, music, film, and philosophy, and explore their cultural, sociopolitical, and historical contexts.

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Uncover the common patterns in human life throughout much of history and the varied ways human beings live and make meaning of their experience through the study of diverse cultural mythologies.

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Engage in the transformative experiences of deep reading, scholarly and creative writing, and generative discussions that advance our personal mythology in relation to communities and culture.

# M.A. and Ph.D in Mythological Studies

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Master of Arts degree is awarded after the first two years of study and a comprehensive examination. The program continues with a third year of classes including a sequence of research courses and the development of an acceptable concept paper for the dissertation. The fourth and fifth years of study focus on dissertation writing and research. Continuing supervision is provided for the completion of the dissertation.

Mythological Studies classes take place either Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday or Friday, Saturday, and Sunday approximately once each month during fall, winter, and spring. There is also one five-day summer session each year.

### M.A. PROGRAM

#### First Year

- Fall** Greek & Roman Mythology I – MS 505, 2 Units  
Hindu Traditions – MS 503, 2 Units  
Dreams, Visions, Myths – MS 521, 2 Units
- Winter** Joseph Campbell Reads James Joyce: Mythopoesis in Motion – MS 516, 2 Units  
Ritual and the Embodied Mythic Imagination – MS 603, 2 Units  
Approaches to the Study of Myth – MS 620, 2 Units
- Spring** Arthurian Romances of the Holy Grail – MS 502, 2 Units  
Myth and Philosophy – MS 515, 2 Units  
Jungian Depth Psychology – MS 511, 2 Units
- Summer** Colloquium – MS 540, 1 Unit  
Mythic Motifs in Cinema – MS 626, 3 Units

#### Second Year

- Fall** Native Mythologies of the Americas – MS 522, 2 Units  
Alchemy and the Hermetic Tradition – MS 616, 2 Units  
Greek & Roman Mythology II – MS 705, 2 Units  
African & African Diaspora Traditions – MS 506, 2 Units  
Integrative Studies Process I – MS 627, 0 Units
- Winter** Alchemy and the Hermetic Tradition – MS 616, 2 Units  
Buddhist Traditions – MS 605, 2 Units  
Archetypal Psychology in the Age of Neuroscience – MS 611, 3 Units  
Integrative Studies Process II – MS 628, 0 Units
- Spring** Folklore & Fairy Tales – MS 602, 2 Units  
Psyche and Nature – MS 615, 2 Units  
Epic Imagination – MS 604, 2 Units  
Integrative Studies Process III – MS 629, 0 Units
- Summer** Colloquium – MS 640, 1 Unit  
Myth and the Underworld – MS 619, 3 Units  
Integrative Studies – MS 630, 1 Unit

### PH.D. PROGRAM

#### Third Year

- Fall** Methods and Contemporary Issues in Religious Studies – MS 720, 2 Units  
Hebrew and Jewish Mythology – MS 702, 2 Units  
Islamic Traditions – MS 608, 2 Units
- Winter** Dante's Commedia: A Triple Journey into Depth & Individuation – MS 727, 2 Units  
Research Strategies for Dissertation Writing – MS 730, 2 Units  
Egyptian Mythology – MS 717, 2 Units
- Spring** Dissertation Formulation – MS 733, 2 Units  
Christian Traditions – MS 703, 2 Units  
Evolving God-Images and Postmodernity – MS 711, 2 Units
- Summer** Colloquium – MS 740, 1 Unit  
Myths of the Self: Memoir and Autobiography – MS 726, 3 Units

#### Continuing

- Dissertation Writing\* – MS 900, 15 Units

\*Writing projects for this course take place away from campus. This curriculum may vary, based upon evolving academic needs.

The required fourth and fifth years of study focus on reading, research, and dissertation writing.

# M.A. and Ph.D in Mythological Studies

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The foundation of Mythological Studies at Pacifica is the close reading of primary texts from a variety of cultural and religious traditions. These courses encourage interdisciplinary scholarship, giving particular attention to myths, iconography, symbols, religious beliefs, and ritual practices. Historical and contemporary approaches to the study of myth are also carefully reviewed.

#### The Arthurian Romances of the Holy Grail

##### MS 502, 2 units

An exploration of the origins and development of the mythologies of the Arthurian knights and quests for the Holy Grail. The course begins with the sacred traditions of the European Middle Ages, as manifested in the literature and arts of the period and then tracks the transmission and transformation of the myths in the Romantic and Modern periods of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

#### Hindu Traditions

##### MS 503, 2 units

This course examines the primary Indian mythic complex embodied within Vaishnava, Shaiva, and Shakta traditions. Special attention is given to prominent myths and symbols, epic literature and other primary texts, as well as influential philosophies and practices such as Yoga, Sankhya, Vedanta, and Tantra. Depth psychological interpretations of key thematic issues and spiritual practices are also examined.

#### Greek and Roman Mythology I

##### MS 505, 2 units

This course explores the most important contemporary approaches to the study of classical mythology. It also looks at how the poets of ancient Greece reworked inherited mythic themes and plots. It engages in close readings of the cultic and bardic poems known as The Homeric Hymns and of the lyric poetry of Sappho. Dramatic poetry, both tragic and comic, of the 5th century Athens is also examined. Attention is given both to the role these myths played in their original historical context and to their ongoing archetypal significance.

#### African and African Diaspora Traditions

##### MS 506, 2 units

The myths and rituals of Africa are a rich legacy, still vital today. Moreover, they endure in adaptive form, in Vodou, Santeria, and other religions of the African Diaspora. The course explores common mythic characters, themes, rituals, symbol systems, and worldviews in Africa and traces their connection to New World Traditions.

#### Myth and Philosophy

##### MS 515, 2 units

This course examines the historical relationship between myth and philosophy in the West. Rationality and science emerged as the revolutionary critique of myth, but that revolution is not beyond criticism. Myth represents a meaningful expression of the world, different from, and not always commensurate with, the kind of understanding sought by philosophers. The notion that philosophy has corrected the ignorance of the past is challenged while philosophy itself is shown to exhibit elements of the mythic world from which it emerged.

#### Native Mythologies of the Americas

##### MS 522, 2 units

This course explores the meanings of selected mythic texts from North American, Mesoamerican, and South American traditions. It considers these texts not only in regard to their manifest narratives and images, but also seeks an understanding of their potential interpreters. This factor, involving history and hermeneutics within a context of Euro-American colonialism, presents important methodological as well as political issues for working in mythological studies, and the course engages such issues as it surveys these texts.

#### Colloquium

##### MS 540, 640, 740, 1 unit each

This series is an exploration of critical issues pertaining to the study of myth in relation to religious traditions, literature, depth psychology, and culture. The course is based on a guest lecture by a major scholar in the field of mythology. Pass/No Pass

#### Ritual and the Embodied Mythic Imagination

##### MS 603, 2 units

Myth and ritual are inextricably related. This course proposes that ritual offers an equally eloquent, though non-discursive, commentary on the human condition. The aims are: to make students familiar with classic theories of ritual process; to explore comparatively fundamental ritual phenomena across cultures, such as initiation, divination, purification and healing, pilgrimage, sacrifice, masking, and funerary rituals; and to assess the association of myth and ritual in religious traditions and depth psychology.

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### **Buddhist Traditions**

#### **MS 605, 2 units**

This course focuses on selected aspects and primary texts of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions. Particular attention is given to the life story of Shakyamuni Buddha, as well as the myths associated with major bodhisattvas. Key thematic issues, doctrines, and contemplative practices are examined from philosophical, feminist, and depth psychological perspectives.

### **Alchemy and the Hermetic Tradition**

#### **MS 616, 2 units**

This course focuses on the Hermetic tradition (broadly conceived as a synthesis of alchemy, Kabbalah, Platonic philosophy, theology, and mythology) from its Egyptian, Greek, and Arabic origins during the Hellenistic era, to its development in the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. The approach is interdisciplinary, embracing Jungian psychology, literature, music, and the visual arts.

### **Integrative Studies Process I, II, III**

#### **MS 627, 628, 629, 0 units**

Preparation for the Comprehensive Exam is facilitated by class discussion pertaining to theoretical perspectives and thematic issues raised by first and second year coursework. This process also includes guest lectures on special topics. Pass/No Pass

### **Integrative Studies**

#### **MS 630, 1 unit**

This course is designed to assess students' understanding of theoretical perspectives on myth and their ability to apply these perspectives to a particular tradition. It also evaluates the ability to reflect on myth in

relation to depth -psychology, literature, and cultural issues. This course serves as the Comprehensive Exam for the Mythological Studies Program. Pass/No Pass

### **Greek and Roman Mythology II**

#### **MS 705, 2 units**

This course explores the critiques of myth and poetry put forward by Plato and Aristotle in 4th century Greece, as well as the new understandings and revisionings of myth put forward in the Hellenistic period and in early imperial Rome. Particular attention is given to the works of Virgil, Ovid, and Apuleius.

### **Egyptian Mythology**

#### **MS 717, 2 units**

The mythology that informs the ancient Egyptian way of life and death is the subject of this course. It explores the principal Egyptian creation myths, gods, goddesses, motifs, symbols, temple ritual, pyramid building, and mummification. The night sea journey of the sun god Re and that of the deceased Pharaoh, and eventually of all deceased Egyptians, is studied through Pyramid, Coffin, and mortuary texts, particularly the Amduat. The Isis and Osiris myth receives particular attention, and its reverberations across literature, alchemy, and depth psychology are followed.

### **Hebrew and Jewish Mythology**

#### **MS 702, 2 units**

This course studies Hebrew and Jewish monotheism from a mythological perspective. The focus is on the emergence of monotheism in early Israel and on trying to understand the ways in which this mythic system differs from polytheistic traditions. Attention is given to how this mythology develops and changes in relation to changing

historical circumstances, not only within the Biblical period but throughout the course of Jewish history.

### **Christian Traditions**

#### **MS 703, 2 units**

This course examines Christian narratives, images, archetypes and symbols within a historical context. It provides an epistemological basis for a mythological and depth psychological hermeneutics. Key themes include cultural influences and theological paradigms of the Greek East and the Latin West, mysticism, iconoclasm, and post-Reformation worldviews.

### **Islamic Traditions**

#### **MS 608, 2 units**

This course explores the major historical traditions of Islam, including Sufism, as well as modern religious movements. Special attention is given to central themes in the Qur'an and the life of Mohammad. The cultural clash between Islam and the West is also examined.

## **MYTH AND LITERATURE**

These courses focus on the interpretation of classical literature, poetry, and literary works from the medieval, modern, and postmodern periods.

### **Cultural Mythologies I, II, III**

#### **MS 514, 614, 714, 2 units each**

These courses are taught on a periodic basis as means for investigating a cultural tradition or thematic topic that is not addressed in the current curriculum.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Joseph Campbell Reads James Joyce: Mythopoesis in Motion**

**MS 516, 2 units**

This course explores selections from James Joyce's short stories and novels primarily through the mythic templates of Joseph Campbell's interpretation of Joyce's poetics in his book on the art of James Joyce as well as his Skeleton Key to Finnegans Wake. In this conjunction of myth and poetry we will forge a new understanding of "mythopoesis" through what Joyce called "the monomyth."

### **Folk and Fairy Tales**

**MS 602, 2 units**

This course studies the origins, structure, and interpretations of folk and fairy tales with a focus on the archetypal mythological symbolism of the stories. In addition, the course will explore the re-visioning of fairy tales in the folk ballad tradition, fairy tale illustrations, and postmodern literature. Finally, the course analyses and critiques the various theories of interpretation of folktales.

### **Epic Imagination**

**MS 604, 2 units**

Epics are stories created by poets to give an entire people a sense of their history and their destiny. As stories that give shape and coherence to the collective myth, epics engage the figure of the epic hero, who either breaks through the conventional wisdom of the people or re-establishes their most profound wishes.

### **Myth and the Underworld**

**MS 619, 3 units**

This course explores the changing faces of the mythologies associated with the underworld, in representative Ancient,

Classical, Medieval, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern texts. What was the primary focus of the myth in each of these periods? How does it reflect the changing spiritual, psychological, intellectual, and social issues of these periods? The course emphasizes the syncretic aspect of the mythologies of the underworld, which typically bring together motifs from a wide range of artistic, literary, and spiritual traditions.

### **Myths of the Self: Memoir and Autobiography**

**MS 726, 3 units**

This course examines the mythic aspects of two literary genres (memoir and autobiography) and engages questions concerning the relation of memory and the imagination, the individual and the archetypal, self and others, and narcissism and guilt. Attention is given to classic examples of the genres, as well as reflections on the defining characteristics of these genres by literary critics, depth psychologists, and feminists. Pass/No Pass

### **Dante's Commedia: A Triple Journey into Depth and Individuation**

**MS 727, 2 units**

Beginning with a brief study of La Vita Nuova, a collection of Dante's poems that placed him on the poetic path to write his grand work, the Commedia, this course studies the three canticas that comprise the poem: Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso. Through a close reading of the text, students engage in Dante's progression through these three stages of increased awareness to investigate the 14th century mythos that guided the poet and to ask what relevance such a worldview might have for us today.

### **DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY AND CULTURE**

Depth psychology is an important resource for the study of myth, literature, religious traditions, and culture. These courses draw substantially on the work of Freud, Jung, and Hillman and provide hermeneutical approaches that complement methods used in other disciplines such as religious studies and literature.

### **Jungian Depth Psychology**

**MS 511, 2 units**

Key Jungian concepts such as the collective unconscious, archetypes, and the individuation process are surveyed with attention to the evolution of these theoretical constructs. The influence of Jung's ideas on the arts, literature, and religious thought is explored.

### **Dreams, Visions, Myths**

**MS 521, 2 units**

Examination of dreams arises out of certain assumptions: that psyche is nature revealing herself in images, that psyche is multidimensional, and that the images of dreams give form to the various expressions of psychological life. The focus is on dream theory and amplification methods. Pass/No Pass

### **Archetypal Psychology in the Age of Neuroscience**

**MS 611, 3 units**

The depth psychology of C.G. Jung and his successors enables us to see how mythology expresses psychology and how psychology may be understood as mythology. Special attention is given to insights from James Hillman's archetypal psychology, including the notions of personifying, pathologizing, psychologizing, and dehumanizing. The works of other post-Jungian writers are also examined to exemplify selected aspects of the archetypal approach.

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### **Psyche and Nature**

#### **MS 615, 2 units**

Geographies of paradise, wilderness, frontier, desert, and ocean are mythic interior landscapes as well as external habitations of divinities and demons, where individuals experience tests, revelations, and illuminations. This course explores external landscapes and their (archetypal) analogues as mythopoetic spaces to discern how mythic consciousness is rooted in the poetry of landscapes.

### **Mythic Motifs in Cinema**

#### **MS 626, 3 units**

A myth, like a movie script, is a story that is false outside (not a true story) and true inside (like a symbol). The power of film to provoke emotions comes from the archetypal core of all conflicts that define human nature. Each generation of artists re-interprets the eternal stories to evoke the ever-changing cultural context. Using a mythological approach, the instructor presents selected portions of films to isolate the universal archetypal pattern at play. It also offers an explanation for mistakes and failures to evoke an emotional response from the audience.

### **Evolving God-Images and Postmodernity**

#### **MS 711, 2 units**

Nietzsche's announcement of the "death of God" still ripples through the Western psyche. Against the backdrop of individual and cultural dependence on a fundamental mythos, this course examines God-images in the context of secularization, religious pluralism, and postmodern network culture. Attention is also given to Jung's recovery of soul, the retrieval of the divine feminine, and other emergent forms of postmodern spirituality. Self-inquiry is conjoined with

critical reflection on the relationships between religion, culture, and the psyche. Pass/ No pass.

### **RESEARCH**

Research skills are cultivated through a series of courses leading to dissertation writing.

### **Approaches to the Study of Myth**

#### **MS 620, 2 units**

An exploration of philosophical, artistic, literary, musical, and psychological approaches to myth, from Antiquity to Modernism. The course will introduce the student to the major schools of the interpretation of myth, with a focus on key figures in the field. In addition to theoretical approaches to myth, the course will explore responses to myth in major works of film, painting, literature, and music. Finally, the course will track changing approaches to certain key myths as they reflect the theoretical and artistic preoccupations of different periods (Classical, Renaissance, Romantic, and Modernist).

### **Methods and Contemporary Issues in Religious Studies**

#### **MS 720, 2 units**

In many ways Religious Studies can be seen as a forerunner of Mythological Studies. Awareness of the debates that shaped this field and the methodological approaches that emerged from them can help students determine how best to hold the phenomenon of myth up to view. The aim of this course is to understand these various possible approaches and the wider implications of those choices.

### **Research Strategies for Dissertation Writing**

#### **MS 730, 2 units**

This course examines dissertation research options supported by the program including theoretical studies in the humanities, humanistic social sciences approaches, and production style projects. It explores the technical aspects of conducting research such as style, rhetoric, and utilization of library resources. The psychological aspects of research and writing processes are also addressed. Pass/No Pass

### **Dissertation Formulation**

#### **MS 733, 2 units**

The issues, tasks, and processes of conducting research and drafting initial concepts are addressed. This course provides the framework for implementing a research idea and writing the concept paper which serves as the basis for the dissertation proposal. The classes also teach strategies and techniques for research and completion of the concept paper. Pass/No Pass. No incompletes are allowed in MS 733.

### **Dissertation Writing**

#### **MS 900, 15 units**

Under the supervision of a Dissertation Committee, students submit a proposal, conduct original research, write and defend a doctoral dissertation. Additional fees will be assessed for this course. Pass/No Pass. Prerequisite: MS 733



# M.A. and Ph.D in Mythological Studies

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## REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

1. Students must complete 82 quarter units to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.
2. A minimum grade of “C” is required in each completed course. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained.
3. Students must attend at least two-thirds of each course.
4. Students must successfully pass a Comprehensive Examination during the second year of course work. Each exam essay must receive at least 70 points. The M.A. degree is awarded when this is achieved along with the completion of 45 quarter units.  
To be eligible to continue taking course work for the Ph.D. degree, students must receive at least 80 points for each exam question.
5. Students must pass an Oral Consultation pertaining to a concept paper for the dissertation.
6. Students must submit and defend an original dissertation accepted by the faculty.

### COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The Comprehensive Examination is a written exam taken during the second year of the program that examines students’ understanding of theoretical perspectives pertaining to myth, as well as their ability to apply them to particular cultural traditions. It also assesses students’ ability to reflect on myth in relation to depth psychology, literature, and cultural issues. In addition, an oral consultation takes place in the Dissertation Formulation course during the third year of the program. The purpose of this assessment is to raise critical questions pertaining to the proposed dissertation project. Students must successfully incorporate the critique of this consultation into their dissertation concept papers in order to be advanced to candidacy.

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The dissertation requirements include successful completion of the advanced research courses: Religious Studies Approaches to Mythology, Research Strategies for Dissertation Writing, and Dissertation Formulation. Students must produce an acceptable Dissertation Concept Paper before enrolling in Dissertation Writing. The Dissertation Committee is composed of a Chair, a Reader, and an External Reader. Each member must possess an earned doctorate degree based on a dissertation, unless this requirement is waived by the Research Coordinator of the Mythological Studies Program.