

**PACIFICA**  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE



## **M.A./PH.D. IN MYTHOLOGICAL STUDIES**

**WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY**

# M.A./PH.D. IN MYTHOLOGICAL STUDIES

## WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY



As the only doctoral program in the country dedicated to the exploration of human experience through the interdisciplinary and multicultural study of myth, ritual, religion, literature, depth psychology, and art, the Mythological Studies Program cultivates scholarship, self-inquiry, and imagination in those who seek to understand and express the depths of the psyche. The program operates on the underlying assumption 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. Myth 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—both of our own and others.

The curriculum as a whole is animated by two basic questions: How is this material meaningful to me in my life and work, and how is it meaningful to the world within which I live?

The sequence of course work provides a sustained **inquiry into the diverse mythologies of the world**, situating them in the global context of the postmodern world. Throughout the program, students engage in the close reading of classic works of world literature, including Homer's *Homer's Odyssey*, the Greek tragedies, the Hebrew Bible, the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, medieval grail legends, and fairy tales. The rituals and contemplative practices of religious traditions are investigated along with mythic and archetypal aspects of modern literature, contemporary events, and popular culture. Several methods of scholarly interpretation are taught with a special emphasis on the hermeneutical approaches of depth psychology.

Students consolidate their learning through a sequence of **special topics courses taught by alumni** who utilize their training in their professional careers as well as by **distinguished faculty members from other Pacifica programs**. Mentoring throughout matriculation on the program is available from core faculty members. Two journals provide students with opportunities for publication in academic and creative writing. The curriculum is further augmented by an **annual colloquium lecture given by distinguished guest scholars**—such as Maria Tatar (Harvard University), Jeffrey Kripal (Rice University), and Yvonne Chireau (Swarthmore College)—who address critical issues in the study of myth and contemporary culture.

Graduates of the program enrich their personal and professional lives through the transformative power of myth. Alumni utilize their degree in a range of professions such as education, psychology, healthcare, the arts, filmmaking, religion, business, politics, law, and community and environmental affairs.



Myth has the power to touch and exhilarate the deepest creative energies of the psyche, and to generate symbolic images that confer shape and significance upon what often seems

the chaotic anarchy of contemporary life. Engaging those energies in the experience of deep reading, writing, and discussion in the classroom has been the joy of my career as a teacher and writer. To transmit that joy to the next generation, in challenging times of radical change; to tend the soul that animates the world; and to continue the inspired quest for myths to live by—these are the responsibilities that fuel my passionate engagement in the mission of Pacifica.

~ EVANS LANSING SMITH, PH.D., Program Chair

## ACADEMIC FORMAT

The Master of Arts degree is awarded after the first two years of study and successful completion of a comprehensive examination. Students seeking the doctorate degree engage in a third year of coursework that includes a sequence of research courses and the development of a 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 occur in 3-day sessions (Friday–Sunday) once each month during fall, winter, and spring. There is one five-day summer session each year.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### FIRST YEAR

#### Fall

- Greek and Roman Mythology I – MS 505, 2 Units
- Dreams, Visions, Myths – MS 521, 2 Units
- Arthurian Romances of the Holy Grail – MS 502, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 599a, .5 Unit

#### Winter

- Hindu Traditions – MS 503, 2 Units
- Ritual and the Embodied Imagination – MS 603, 2 Units
- Epic Imagination – MS 604, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 599b, .5 Unit

#### Spring

- Approaches to Mythological Studies – MS 620, 2 Units
- Jungian Depth Psychology – MS 511, 2 Units
- Myth and Philosophy – MS 515, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 599c, .5 Unit

#### Summer

- Colloquium – MS 540, 1 Unit
- Mythic Motifs in Cinema – MS 626, 3 Units

### SECOND YEAR

#### Fall

- Psyche and Nature – MS 615, 2 Units
- Buddhist Traditions – MS 605, 2 Units
- Hebrew and Jewish Mythology – MS 702, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 699a, .5 Unit

#### Winter

- Alchemy and the Hermetic Traditions – MS 616, 2 Units
- African Diaspora Traditions – MS 506, 2 Units
- Greek and Roman Mythology II – MS 705, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 699b, .5 Unit

#### Spring

- Archetypal Psychology – MS 611, 2 Units
- Comic Books as Modern Mythology – MS 670, 2 Units
- Native Mythologies of the Americas – MS 522, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 699c, .5 Unit

#### Summer

- Colloquium – MS 640, 1 Unit
- Myth and the Underworld – MS 619, 3 Units
- Comprehensive Exam – MS 800, 0 Units

### THIRD YEAR

#### Fall

- Methods and Contemporary Issues in Religious Studies – MS 720, 2 Units
- Folklore & Fairy Tales – MS 602, 2 Units
- Islamic Traditions – MS 608, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 799a, .5 Unit

#### Winter

- Cultural Mythologies I – MS 514, 2 Units
- Christian Traditions – MS 703, 2 Units
- Sex and Gender – MS 609, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 799b, .5 Unit

#### Spring

- Egyptian Mythology – MS 717, 2 Units
- Research Strategies for Dissertation Writing – MS 730, 2 Units
- Dissertation Formulation – MS 733, 2 Units
- Special Topics in Mythological Studies – MS 799c, .5 Unit

#### Summer

- Colloquium – MS 740, 1 Unit
- Myths of the Self: Memoir and Autobiography – MS 726, 3 Units

### CONTINUING

- Dissertation Writing\* – MS 900, 15 Units
- Self-Directed Studies – MS 970, 3.5 Units

\*Writing projects for this course take place away from campus.

This curriculum may vary depending upon evolving academic needs.

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

Curriculum subject to change.

This degree program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

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# M.A./PH.D. IN MYTHOLOGICAL STUDIES

## WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY

At the cusp of a paradigm shift in which outmoded mechanistic, reductive modes of thinking are being replaced by more complex, reanimated worldviews, the study of myth, story and fable has an exciting new relevance. The study of myth with its storehouse of narratives and images can help guide us by facilitating our personal and collective transition into a more vibrant reality. Myth reveals the unconscious narratives of both past and present, making the study of myth vitally important to our time. Issues of faith and violence, sexuality, the sacred and the secular, all co-mingle in the tapestry that comprises mythological studies.

Guided by internationally recognized scholars, authors, and educators, Pacifica's Mythological Studies Program invites students to understand the mythological, folkloric, and archetypal structures of the stories that play out in many different arenas all around us—religion, popular culture, politics, the environment, and the arts. The program explores new ways to detect and study the mythic and folkloric motifs revealed in current events, tell stories in ways that bring consciousness to important issues and events, and mentor others in the power of storytelling to transform and renew culture.



Story was our ancestors' most sacred possession. They knew what we do not: that without a founding story, you haven't got a nation, a culture, or a civilization. And without a story of your own, you haven't got a life of your own.

~ TOM BLUE WOLF  
CREE ELDER AND STORYTELLER

## INQUIRY IN THE CURRICULUM IS SUSTAINED THROUGH COURSEWORK THAT INVESTIGATES:

- Similarities and differences that may be discerned within and between African Diaspora and indigenous traditions, Hinduism and Buddhism, and Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Courses that begin with the classics and progress toward contemporary and postmodern re-visionings in literature, film, music, and art.
- Personal development courses on dreams, visions, and myths; memoir and autobiography.
- Depth psychological courses devoted to the perspectives of Sigmund Freud, C.G. Jung, Marie-Louise von Franz, James Hillman, and Joseph Campbell.
- Research courses on theoretical approaches to the study of myth, ritual, philosophy, methods and contemporary issues in religious studies, and dissertation writing.

## PROGRAM GOALS:

The program’s curriculum is designed to help students achieve six primary learning objectives or goals that are distributed across four domains of the curriculum.

- **Mythology and Religious Traditions:** Interpret the primary myths and rituals of a variety of religious and cultural traditions.
- **Myth and Literature:** Interpret the mythological and archetypal aspects of literature.
- **Depth Psychology and Culture:** Critically apply the hermeneutics of depth psychology. Interpret the mythic themes and dynamics that are present in contemporary events and popular culture.
- **Research and Scholarly Writing:** Critically evaluate and utilize scholarly approaches. Critically evaluate cultural assumptions, especially those pertaining to diversity.

## MYTHOLOGICAL STUDIES CAREER APPLICATIONS HAVE INCLUDED:

Educator	Consultant	Graphic Artist
Therapist	Organizational	Video Game
Screenwriter	Storyteller	Producer
Playwright	Literary and	Environmentalist
Novelist	Film Critic	Social Activist
Life Coach	Performance Artist	

## ALUMNI OF THIS PROGRAM



**MARY LOUNSBURY**  
Ph.D. Mythological Studies

Founder of Mythos-Sphere, a multi-dimensional structure that brings people together to share in the joy of creative expression in community.



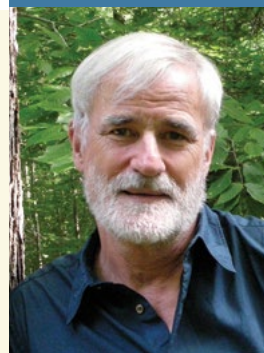
**CLARA OROPEZA**  
Ph.D. Mythological Studies

Professor of English Composition and Literature at Santa Barbara City College and the author of *Anaís Nin: A Myth of Her Own*.



**KWAME SCRUGGS**  
Ph.D. Mythological Studies

Founder and Director of Alchemy, Inc. a nonprofit organization helping urban adolescents learn to “become the hero in their own story.”



**SELDEN EDWARDS**  
Ph.D. Mythological Studies

English teacher and independent school headmaster, and the author of two bestselling novels, *The Little Book* and *The Lost Prince*.