

## UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

### SECTION II. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES - INTERDISCIPLINARY

1. COURSE NUMBER: **GEOL 329i**

SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: **Geomythology**

Start Date: Summer 07

2. COURSE FORMAT: Lecture and discussion. Average class size: 30.

3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to: (a) relate myths and legends to geological events that happened in the past by comparing them to geological events from the present; (b) develop analytical and critical-thinking skills about natural disasters and oral traditions in the context of geology; (c) demonstrate a vocabulary in the geosciences sufficient to read, converse, and analyze geological and mythological texts; (d) practice critical thinking using the concepts and methods of different disciplines; and (e) increase understanding of the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to complex subjects such as natural disasters involving death and destruction and the human need to explain such peril.

4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: Geology is able to encompass the relatively new discipline of geomythology, the study of oral traditions that perpetuate memories of prehistoric geologic events. Geomythology teaches us the connection between some of humanity's oldest surviving responses to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, climate change, and other memorable natural events. This course is an interdisciplinary application of basic scientific concepts of geology to the social sciences. It is also designed to help us develop critical thinking skills and evaluation which are crucial for success in college and in most other areas of our lives. The discussion sessions of this course will emphasize the development of good verbal expression and listening skills. Finally, the course is writing intensive involving a series of progressively more involved papers leading to a substantial research paper on a topic to be chosen by each student. Lastly, this is a course in which all views and ideas can be discussed openly; there will be no judgment of any ideas, only thoughtful and polite critical analysis.

5. REQUIRED READING: Abbott, *Natural Disasters*; Vitaliano, *Legends of the Earth*. A course reader with selected materials will accompany the syllabus.

6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- Two (2) Midterms (20%)
- Opinion Papers (20%)
- Final Exam (15%)
- Final Paper (25%)
- Discussion Participation (20%)

7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None

9/4/07