

## EUROPEAN AND WORLD MYTHOLOGY COURSE OUTLINE (1 SEMESTER)

---

**Introduction:** One of the most frequently-asked questions I receive is “How do you set up a mythology course?” This is a detailed outline of how I run my semester-long European and world mythology course, which includes Norse mythology, King Arthur legends, and other world myths. All the materials that I use in my own class are available on Mythologyteacher.com or appear in the *Reaching Olympus* textbook series.

**Allotted Time:** Numbers appearing to the left of assignment titles indicate the days of each unit. The entire semester consists of 90 planned days of instruction.

**Resources:** For a full list of resources used in this outline, see the list at the end of the document. Script-stories (Reader’s Theater plays) listed here come from the *Reaching Olympus* series, available for purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>.

**Using Script-Stories in the Classroom:** Each volume within the *Reaching Olympus* series contains a section that lists best practices for using script-stories (Reader’s Theater) in the classroom.

**Anticipatory Set:** Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series includes a series of anticipatory questions to get students engaged in the content of the story.

**Assessment:** Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series contains five recall questions that can be used as a post-script-story quiz.

**Unit Exams and Quizzes:** This outline recommends conducting formative assessments or quizzes throughout the unit and days for summative assessments at the conclusion of each unit. These assessments are not included with this outline. Teachers can create their own, or there are several available for purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

### Unit One: Norse Myths And Legends (23 Days)

1. **Introduction to Norse Culture**
  - a. **“So You Want To Be a Viking” (worksheet)**
    - i. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
  - b. **“European Name Meanings” (worksheet)**
    - i. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Norse-Mythology.php>
2. **Introduction to Norse Mythology**
  - a. **Norse Gods Powerpoint**
    - i. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Norse-Mythology.php>
  - b. **Map of the World Tree**
    - i. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
3. **“The Building of the Wall” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*

4. **"The Apples of Iduna" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
5. **"The Treasures of the Gods" (script-story)**
  - a. Quiz over Norse gods
  - b. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
6. **"Odin's Quest for Wisdom" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
7. **Riddle worksheet**
  - a. Have students write their own riddles.
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Beowulf.php>
8. **"Freya the Bride"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
9. **"In the Land of the Giants"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
10. **"Thor the Superhero" (worksheet)**
  - a. Analyze how the Norse god inspired the popular superhero.
11. **"The Children of Loki"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
12. **"The Death of Balder"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
13. **"Vali, Private Avenger"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
14. **Viking Chess (Hnefatafl)**
  - a. Learn how to play this Norse board game
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Norse-Mythology.php>
15. **"Otter's Ransom"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
16. **"The Sword of the Volsungs"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
17. **"Sigurd the Dragonslayer"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
18. **"The Fallen Valkyrie"**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
19. **Valhalla Find-It Picture Puzzle**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
20. **Norse Mythology Exam**
  - a. Source: Available for individual purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
21. **Ragnarok Battle Game**
  - a. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
22. **Ragnarok Battle Game (cont.)**
23. **Ragnarok Battle Game (cont.)**

**Unit Two: Beowulf Mini-Unit (6 Days)**

1. **The Birth of Britain (presentation)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Beowulf.php>
2. **Introduction to Old English**
  - a. **Read excerpts from *Beowulf* in Old English**
    - i. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Beowulf.php>
  - b. **Read The Lord's Prayer in Old English**
    - i. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Beowulf.php>
  - c. **Old English Phrasebook**
    - i. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Beowulf.php>
3. **"Beowulf: Part I" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: Available for individual download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
4. **"Beowulf: Part II" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: Available for individual download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
5. **"Beowulf" (video from *Clash of the Gods* series)**
6. **Assign "Mythical Creature Research Project"**
  - a. Instructions: Students research and create a presentation featuring a mythical creature.
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>

**Unit Three: King Arthur and The Knights of the Round Table (40 Days)**

1. **"So You Want To Be a Knight" (worksheet) and "The Quest for Character" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
2. **Knightly Virtues (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
3. **Castles and Catapults Game**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
4. **Arthurian Character Notes**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
5. **"Merlin the Boy" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
6. **"The Begetting of Arthur" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
7. **Coat of Arms (worksheet)**
  - a. Create a personal coat of arms.
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
8. **"A Tale of Two Swords" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*

9. **"The Knights of the Round Table" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
10. **"Shadows of the Past" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
11. **"History of Chess" worksheet**
  - a. Learn how to play the game of chess.
  - b. Discussion: How is chess inspired by medieval society?
  - c. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
12. **"The Bride of the King" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
13. **"Medieval Marriage" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
14. **Heraldry (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
15. **"The Unicorn Hunt" (script-story excerpt from *The Once and Future King*)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
16. **"The White Hart" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
17. **Medieval Bestiary**
  - a. Research three animals from a medieval bestiary and see how they were presented differently in the Middle Ages.
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
18. **"Gawain and the Green Knight" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
19. **"The Knight of the Lake" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
20. **"The Holy Grail" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
21. **"The Loves of Lancelot" (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
22. **"Courtly Love" (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
23. **"Lanval" by Marie de France (short story)**
  - a. Discussion: How does this story present a reversal of the typical damsel-in-distress?
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>

24. **“The Tale of Beaumains” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
25. **“Return of the Misbegotten” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
26. **Design an Action Figure**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
27. **“The Quest of the Holy Grail” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
28. **Monty Python and the Holy Grail clips (film)**
  - a. Analyze what elements of Arthurian legend are parodied by the film.
  - b. Warning: Some content is not school appropriate.
29. **“The Trial of Guinevere” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
30. **“Fall of Camelot” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
31. **King Arthur Exam**
  - a. Source: Available for purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
32. **Conspiracy in Camelot (roleplaying game)**
  - a. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales and Legends of King Arthur*
33. **“Tristan and Isolde” (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>
34. **Tristan and Isolde (film)**
35. **Tristan and Isolde (film)**
36. **Tristan and Isolde (film)**
37. **Create a “Choose Your Own Quest” Adventure**
  - a. Create an adventure that has branching narrative pathways.
  - b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Choose-Your-Own-Quest.php>
38. **Create a “Choose Your Own Quest” Adventure**
39. **Create a “Choose Your Own Quest” Adventure**
  - a. Allow others to “play” your adventure with branching narrative pathways.
40. **“Sir George and the Dragon” (short story)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/King-Arthur-and-the-Knights-of-the-Round-Table.php>

**Unit Four: Fables, Fairy Tales, Folktales, and Other Tales from World Mythology (21 Days)**

1. **Present “Mythical Creature Research Project”**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>
2. **Present “Mythical Creature Research Project”**
3. **Present “Mythical Creature Research Project”**
4. **Aesop’s Fables**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>

5. **“Rumpelstiltskin” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>
6. **“Jack and the Beanstalk” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: Available for individual download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
7. **“Momotaro” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: Available for individual download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
8. **“Urashima the Fisherman” (worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>
9. **Mythical Creatures of Russia notes and “Princess Vasilissa and the Firebird” (script-story)**
  - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.php>
10. **Research a fairy tale or folktale from around the world.**
  - a. Turn this story into a script-story and present it to the class.
11. **Research a fairy tale or folktale from around the world.**
12. **Research a fairy tale or folktale from around the world.**
13. ***Arabian Nights* (film)**
14. ***Arabian Nights* (film)**
15. ***Arabian Nights* (film)**
16. ***Arabian Nights* (film)**
17. ***Arabian Nights* (film)**
18. **Tournament of the Gods**
  - b. Research any deity from world mythology and create a fighter based upon it.
  - c. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
19. **Tournament of the Gods (cont.)**
20. **Tournament of the Gods (cont.)**
21. **Tournament of the Gods (cont.)**

**Resources:**

*Arabian Nights*. Dir. Steve Barron. Lions Gate, 2001. Film.

*Clash of the Gods*. Dir. Christopher Cassel and Jessica Conway. History Channel, 2009. Film.

Hamby, Zachary. Mythologyteacher.com. Hamby Publishing, 2010. Web. 26 February 2014.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2014. Print.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Valhalla*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2012. Print.

Hamby, Zachary. *The Road to Camelot*. Ava, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2015. Print.

*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Dir. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones. Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 2001. Film.

*Tristan and Isolde*. Dir. Kevin Reynolds. Twentieth Century Fox, 2006. Film.