

GODDESS PREHISTORY

Nov. 7 & 8, 2008

PSU

Dr. Frodo Okulam

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Message: Women's Studies Dept., 503 725-3516 Rm. 469 NH

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will explore the idea of the prehistoric Goddess and her meaning for us today. Beginning with the film *Signs out of time: The story of archaeologist Marija Gimbutas* (Donna Read and Starhawk, Belili Productions, 2003), students will discuss Gimbutas' theories and their influence in our world today.

READING MATERIALS: Selections from an unpublished dissertation by Dr. Frodo Okulam; Bibliography.

COURSEWORK FOR CREDIT: 5-page research paper with Resource List of at least 5 resources of various formats (books, websites, interviews, videos, periodicals). I am not looking for a recitation of facts about your subject, but for a presentation of what you found and what you think about it. Relate your research findings to your own experience and engagement with the subject. Please cite sources of quotes as they occur either in footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references. Please use a recognized style for your citations and works cited page (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

Subjects for papers: You may choose any subject related to the course subject. Examples: Was there a concept of the Great Goddess in prehistoric times? What evidence is there for this?

Was there a time of peace in human prehistory? What is the evidence?

Do the symbols associated with prehistoric Goddess figures carry universal meaning?

Can evidence of the prehistoric Goddess be found in later cultures' Goddess imagery?

Interview a practitioner of Goddess spirituality, an author, an artist or art historian, an archeologist, etc. about their interest in Goddess prehistory & look at their sources.

Use prehistoric Goddess imagery to create an artwork, ritual, story, song, etc. Discuss your process and sources.

Investigate the works of a researcher, author, artist, etc. who draws upon Goddess prehistory in their work. Discuss their process and influences.

Discuss the influence of Goddess prehistory on contemporary feminist theory.

Discuss the relevance of Goddess prehistory to our contemporary times.

Due date: Nov. 28. Email to me or drop off: WS office, 469 NH

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION: Create a safe and respectful atmosphere for discussion. Treat others with consideration, including ensuring time for all to speak.

Agree to keep specifics of class conversations within class. Understand that each person's experience is important to them. Respect one another's ideas. Recognize that no one has "the facts" about this subject. Respect others' wisdom and your own.

Acknowledge that sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, etc., exist. Recognize that this class is taught from an eclectic, feminist perspective.

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SYLLABUS

Fri. Nov. 7

- 5:30 Welcome, attendance, distribution of coursepacks, overview of the course.
- 6:00 Introduction to the work of Marija Gimbutas and other scholars
- 6:45 Break
- 7:00 *Signs Out of Time* video
- 8:00 Small Group Discussion
- 8:45 Large Group Reconvene; Questions on assignments
- 9:10 Break for the Evening

(Try to read the coursepack before reconvening. Bring a question for tomorrow)

Sat. Nov. 8

- 9:00 Welcome, sign-in. Experiential exercise.
- 9:30 Lecture: Goddess prehistory and women's spirituality
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Questions from lecture and coursepack
- 10:45 Film clip from *Goddess Remembered*; Questions & Discussion
- 12:00 Break for lunch
- 1:00 Guest Speaker: Sheila Redman with her Goddess collection
- 2:00 Break
- 2:10 Small Group Discussion: Relevance Today
- 2:40 Questions re. Research Paper
- 3:00 Farewell