

Quiz #2

*Ch.2 Mythology*

1. T/F Myths can provide the basis for religious beliefs and practices.  
**true**
  2. T/F Through examining the myths of a culture we can glean its rules for proper conduct.  
**true**
  3. What is a society's worldview?  
**The way in which it perceives and interprets reality. It forms a template for thought and behavior. Offers members an understanding of how the world works.**
  4. How does the Euro-American worldview differ from that of the Navaho?  
**Navaho see the world in terms of relationships and connections –elements that make up the world. Nature exists and humans are part of nature  
Euro-Americans see humans as occupying a very special place in the universe in which everything exists for the benefit of humankind. Humankind can thus control nature, e.g. illness. Navaho: restore harmony Euro-American: empirical causes**
  5. What moral lessons are imbued in the Snow White story?  
**Evil Queen falls into jealous rage when she hears that someone is more beautiful than she is...Snow white is the evil Queen's stepdaughter – huntsman sent to kill her, instead kills a wild boar/ presents lungs and liver to the Queen. Snow white escapes and goes to live with the seven dwarves...poison apple (dies) and then revived when a prince discovers her, kisses her and she returns to life.**  
**Evils of jealousy and envy—what can happen to those who exhibit these behaviors—that those who are subject to evil deeds will triumph.**
- A folk tale – takes place in a fictional world...**
6. T/F Legends are seen by members of a culture as representing events that have actually taken place.  
**True – embellishments can occur**
  7. What's an example of an urban legend?  
**Stolen kidneys. Micro-waved poodle.**

8. T/F While myths and legends are regarded as factual, folktales are considered to be fiction.  
**True – Myths recount real events that took place in a remote past in a world different than that of today.**
9. T/F Oral transmission of mythic stories ensures that they will not change in their retelling.  
**False - re: telephone game. Can be long and complex.**
10. T/F Written narratives remain very stable through time.  
**True**
11. What are some of the ways that written stories and jokes might be transformed when they are forwarded via email?  
**Change names, bits of context—applying them to other cultures and communities**
12. T/F Muslims believe that the true text of the Qur'an exists in heaven and was given to Mohammad through revelations which he memorized word for word.  
**true**
13. What language was the Qur'an written in?  
**Arabic**
14. What language were the original Catholic services conducted in?  
**Latin**
15. In what ways do the Genesis stories reflect the Judeo-Christian worldview?  
**Universe is mechanistic and humans are its master – Humans a categorically different creature than all other life forms  
 Everything created for the use of and service to humans**
16. T/F The early Catholics were very concerned that followers read the bible for themselves.  
**False**
17. T/F There is no single myth which exists cross-culturally.  
**True, but characteristic versions may be found in specific areas.**
18. What are some of the ways that myths can be analyzed?  
**Functional –  
 Myths of a culture like ethnographic data (re: kinship, relationships, div. of labor)  
 Myth expresses, enhances and codifies belief**
- Structural – binary opposites; focus on underlying structure rather than content  
 Women: Nature Men: Culture**

**Psychoanalytic—symbolism, re: loss of virginity/rite of passage**

19. What themes are common in myths?

**Origin- creation stories**

**Apocalyptic—disaster/destruction, eg Floods**

**Trickster- Why things are the way they are**

**Hero Story – Return from journey transformed**

20. What characteristics are commonly found in tricksters?

**Adventurous, gluttonous, seek sexual pleasure, lazy, impulsive, dishonest.**

**Responsible for bringing in important elements into the world (sun, fire) May happen inadvertently...**

21. What elements are found in the hero's journey (monomyth)?

**Rite of passage: separation (thrust away from community of origin)**

**Training: acquires supernatural tools, power (can be tutored by a Master)**

**Returns: Accomplishes the task...**

22. What are some examples of films that are organized around the monomyth structure?

**Wizard of Oz, Star Wars, Harry Potter**

### *Ch. 3 Religious Symbols*

1. T/F The world of religion is a symbolic world.

**True**

2. What is *displacement*?

**The ability to use symbols to refer to things and activities that are remote from the user**

3. T/F Most symbols have a direct connection with the things that they refer to.

**False**

4. T/F Symbols can be used to stand for concepts that exist only in our minds.

**True**

5. The swastika has been used in several religious systems. Name three.

**Nazi party – WWII**

**Navaho – Whirling Log (built by gods)**

**Hindu – Good luck**

**Japanese Buddhism—abundance, prosperity, long life**

6. How has the pentagram been used?

**Christianity – Jesus' five wounds**

**Hebrew – Five books of Torah**

**Witchcraze – witch's foot**

**Satanic – evil association**

**Wicca – Four directions plus spirit**

7. T/F The cross was originally associated with pagan practices.

**True**

8. What cross shows the crucifixion scene?

a. Protestant b. United Methodist c. Roman Catholic d. Orthodox Church

**C**

9. T/F The cross was the most important Christian symbol.

**False, Fish**

10. T/F Ancient Roman and Mayan statues were often colored in bright paint.

**True, we only see the remaining stone surface**

11. What color do brides wear in your culture?

**White? Red? (what does it symbolize?)**

12. T/F Not all cultures recognize the same colors.

**True – Hopi don't see yellow (light orange)**

13. Considering the different roles you play in your life, how do you adapt your appearance to fit into each of these?

**Work, school, play, sports, beach...**

14. How many (if any) piercings and tattoos do you have? Do they symbolize something to you?

**(Discussion)**

15. How did the practice of tattooing come to Euro-American culture?

**18<sup>th</sup> c. voyage of Captain Cook to Tahiti –many of the sailors got tattooed...brought interest in the practice back to Europe..**

16. What are some examples of how human cultures have altered their bodies.

**Darken/remove teeth, foot binding, remove finger/joint, rings to elongate neck (Karen tribe in N. Thailand, corsets, plastic surgeries (breasts, nose, face lifts), genital surgeries (circumcisions, FGM)**

17. How long is a week?

**Depends on the culture**

18. How long does the Jewish mourning practice of *shiva* last?

**Seven days...completion can move on...**

19. T/F The religious systems of the Australian Aborigines are focused on expressions of sacred time and space.

**True**

20. What is the state of the earth during Australian Aboriginal *Dream Time*?

**Creation of earth without features like mountains, rivers, plains...**

21. T/F During *Dream Time* humans and animals are descended from the same supernatural beings.

**True – these beings were neither human nor animal, but establish a shared kinship**

22. When can the flesh of Australian Aboriginal totemic animals be eaten?

**During rituals...(e.g. initiations, otherwise prohibited to eat...**

23. What raw foods do you eat? What foods would you only eat if they were cooked?  
Where do these ideas come from?

**Cultural ideas...**

24. How is music used in ritual?

**To teach,, produce altered states, contact supernatural powers/forces**

**Communicate with the gods**

25. What is the easiest to memorize?

a. poetry b. prose c. song lyrics

**C**

26. T/F The emotional meaning of different musical forms is universal.

**False – trouble faced my missionaries...symbolic vis-à-vis culture**

27. T/F Musical sounds can be interpreted as sounds of the supernatural.

**True**

28. Under what conditions might dance function as an important vehicle for telling sacred stories?

**No written language – combine music, costumes, props to tell stories**

29. What are the functions of music in American culture?

**Bonding, prayer, relaxation, unification**

#### *The Asmat of New Guinea*

1. T/F The Sago Palm, while revered by the Asmat, was not a major food source.

**False – basis of diet**

2. T/F Head hunting and Cannibalism were marks of status in traditional Asmat society.

**True**

3. T/F The Asmat use religion and magic to combat threatening forces.

**True**

4. How have the Asmat avenged the death of their kin?

**Taking heads, building ancestor poles**

5. T/F To the Asmat revenge killings were reenactments of the creation myth.  
**True – problematic in not being able to finish the religious cycle when killings were banned by the missionaries**

6. The Asmat belief concerning life after death is that:  
 a. souls are reborn into another body (reincarnation) b. spirits of the dead inhabit trees  
 c. spirits of the dead may remain and cause trouble

**B**

7. Which of the following is **not** an example of magic as practiced by the Asmat?  
 a. assigning a slain enemy's name to a member of the village b. beheading an enemy to revenge a villagers death c. growing crops in the village area d. carving ancestor poles

**C**

8. What special significance does the praying mantis have for the Asmat?

**Head is eaten as part of copulation – Asmat also eat heads...their practices mimic nature**

9. Given the recent entry of the Western World into the realm of the Asmat, what kind of future might we expect?

**Difficult for a people who cannot continue to practice their religion to retain a secure identity and existence**