

## **Study Guide for Assigned Papers on Mythology**

### **Bascom (1965) The Forms of Folklore: Prose Narratives**

1. What is the purpose of this paper?
2. What is the definition of myth proposed by Bascom?
3. What are the criteria which Bascom uses to distinguish between myths, legends and folktales?

### **Honko (1972) The Problem of Defining Myth**

1. What is the purpose of this paper?
2. What is the definition of myth proposed by Honko?
3. What is demythologisation? And what are the types of demythologisation?
4. What are the “explanations for myths” summarized by Honko?
5. How does Honko’s definition overlap with Bascom’s? How does it differ?

### **Puhvel (1972) *Comparative Mythology***

#### **Chapter 3: The Concepts “Indo-European” and “Indo-Iranian”**

1. What is mean by Indo-European?
2. What kind of evidence is used to support this construct?

#### **Chapter 8: Ancient Greece**

3. Why is Greek mythology central to mythology in general?
4. Why is that position a problem for comparative mythology?
5. Puhvel talks about “three main ingredients of ancient Greek culture in general, and of myth in particular” (127). What are they?
6. What is distinguishes Greek mythology from other Indo-European mythologies? In particular what is distinct about the Greek pantheon?

## **Kirk (1972) Greek Mythology: Some New Perspectives**

1. What is the purpose of this paper?
2. What does Kirk have to say about “the relation of myths to religion” (74)
3. How does Kirk define myth (at least in part)?
4. What does Kirk have to say about “charter myths”?
5. Myths are often referred to as aetiological. What does that mean?
6. What position does Kirk think Greek myths has in understanding mythology in general? And what position does he think it should have? Why?