

**English 215**  
**Myth and Symbolism**  
**Professor Stork**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Class Meets: R 1600-1845, Clark 125**  
**Office Hours: Thursday, 1500-1600 and by appointment through me or the**  
**English Department**  
**924-4477**  
[Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu](mailto:Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu)

This class explores the wide realm of literature concerned with spirituality, imagination and dreams. Let's leave behind the mundane apparatus of the world and the rigorous ideologies of realism! English 215 has an historical focus, designed to explore some of the more popular mythologies and folk tales in Western literature. Emphasis is on the Celtic, Germanic and Norse traditions

Grading:

Two reading responses, 1,500 words each (free choice of texts and topics, critical reading and analysis)	40%
Find a short mythic or symbolist poem (under 40 lines)	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Final Paper (6,000 words) (can be creative, but must involve some research) (minimum of 3 outside sources)	40%

Required Texts:

Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales*, Norton.

When reading the fairy tales, please read all versions and all relevant criticism in the Norton edition.)

Byock, Jesse. *The Saga of the Volsungs*

Shepherd, Stephen. *Le Morte Darthur, Sir Thomas Malory*, Norton Critical Edition

Schedule of Classes:

- Aug 22 Ballads from Child's Scottish and English Ballads. The Fairy Lover
- 29 Ancient Eros: Read Song of Songs (any translation is fine) and Egyptian Love Songs [www.humanistictexts.org/egyptlov.htm](http://www.humanistictexts.org/egyptlov.htm)
- Sep 5 Tom Thumb, Puss in Boots (Charles Perrault, on line)  
Hansel and Gretel (Classic Fairy Tales)
- Sep 12 Little Red Riding Hood
- Sep 19 Beauty and the Beast
- Sep 26 Bluebeard
- Oct 3 Find a symbolist poem and bring it to class (details to follow)
- Oct 10 Saga of the Volsungs
- Oct 17 Finish Volsungs. Start Malory (p. 3-40, How Uther Pendragon, etc.)
- Oct 24 Malory, p. 40-62 (Balyn and Balan),
- Oct 31 Sankgreal, 462-488, 496-506, 521-531
- Nov 7 Malory, Tale of Sir Launcelot and Quene Gwenyvere, 588-645
- Nov 14 Dethe of Arthur, 646-698
- Nov 21 Presentations
- Thanksgiving – no class
- Dec 5 Presentations
- Final Papers DUE: Thursday, December 12, 1430