

English 116
Mythology
Spring 2019
Professor Stork
Faculty Offices Building Office 218
Office Hours, Tuesday, 1500-1600, Thursday 800-900, and by appointment
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This class is a survey of myths from the ancient and medieval worlds that have been influential for English and world literature. We will read these myths in translation or in the original English text. We will consider throughout the semester various critical approaches to analyzing and appreciating mythology as it appears in literary form.

Late policy: Please make every effort to get your work in on time. Late work in the case of a documented, compelling emergency will be accepted up to one week after the due date for a penalty of one full grade, e.g. A to B, B to C.

Please see me if you need disability accommodations.

All work will be assessed for intellectual content, mechanical correctness and overall quality of writing.

Please bring your text and writing materials to class each day.

Please do not leave class to answer your phone.

Required Texts:

Jesse Byock, translator, *The Saga of the Volsungs*

Reading response Grades:

An A essay will have NO mechanical or stylistic errors.

A B essay will have no more than FOUR mechanical or stylistic errors.

A C essay will have no more than EIGHT mechanical or stylistic errors.

A D essay will have no more than TWELVE mechanical or stylistic errors.

You are responsible for setting your own prompt for each of your reading responses. You will be graded on the complexity and intellectual interest of your prompt, in addition to how well you argue and support your point(s). If you simply summarize what we have gone over in class, you will not achieve more than a C. You must do some original thinking or research. You may include texts you are reading for another class.

Grading Percentages:

Three Reading Responses (1000 words each)	75%
Final Exam	25%

Schedule of Classes:

Jan	24	Introduction, The Golden Bough
	29	Song of Songs, (Song of Solomon), Biblical, available on-line
	31	Egyptian Love Poetry (text provided)
Feb	5	Plutarch, De Iside et Osiride (on-line, uchicago)
	7	Plutarch
	12	Plutarch
	14	Battles of Horus (sacred-texts.com)
	19	Life of St. George (Golden Legend 3:58, Fordham University)
	21	St. Margaret (Golden Legend 5:113 or UC Davis version) and Revelation 12-13 (women and dragons)
	26	Discussion of possible topics
	28	<u>First Reading Response DUE</u>
Mar	5	Sir Orfeo (Middle English) (Norton Anthology or U Rochester on-line)
	7	Mythic echoes in Shakespeare (text provided)
	12	Saga of the Volsungs (book)
	14	Saga of the Volsungs
	19	Saga of the Volsungs
	21	Saga of the Volsungs
	26	Discussion of possible topics
	28	<u>Second Reading Response</u>
April 1-5		Spring Break
Apr	9	No Class (optional conferences)
	11	Rig-Veda (sacred-texts.com. Poems # 7, 8, 12, 64, 92, 105)
	16	I Ching (text provided)
	18	Lecture on Chinese Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism
	23	Journey to the West Chapter One
	25	Journey to the West, Chapter Two
	30	Journey to the West, Chapter Three
May	2	Discussion of possible topics
	7	<u>Third Reading Response</u>
	9	Review for Final

Final Exam:

Thursday, May 16, 945-1200