

San José State University
English 116, Myth in Literature, Spring 202

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor(s): | Professor N. Stork |
| Office Location: | Faculty Offices Building 218 |
| Telephone: | 408 924 4477 |
| Email: | Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Tuesday, 1500-1700 and by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | TR 900 AM |
| Classroom: | BBC 130 |
| Prerequisites: | Upper Division Standing |

Course Description

Max Müller famously said that “Mythology is a disease of language.” By looking at the earliest recorded myths from a variety of cultures, we will try to understand how mythology arises from language. We will also read myths from later time periods and those that have traveled between cultures, including Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Celtic, Norse, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Chinese. Informal lectures will be given on historical and textual backgrounds as well as modern approaches to the study of mythology. Please feel free to ask questions in class. I will encourage class participation by learning your names and calling on you.

Course Format

In person lecture and discussion. This course is 4 units because it includes an added four reading quizzes.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Write effective analyses of world mythology.

Understand the complexity of textual and oral transmission of culturally significant myths.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Do their own research into some aspect of world mythology, including transmission of texts about gods, demons and other supernatural beings.*
- 2. Investigate the earliest sources for both written and oral mythologies*

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Jesse Byock, *The Saga of the Volsungs*, Berkeley, University of California Press
Other texts as listed in the syllabus are available on-line

Course Requirements and Assignments

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| Two Reading Responses @ 20% each | 40% |
| Four reading quizzes @ 5% each | 20% |
| Oral Presentation of final project | 10% |
| Final Research Paper | 30% |

Final Research Paper: 3,000 words

Grading Information

Papers will be assessed for content, mechanical correctness and overall quality of writing.

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.

Late Policy:

Quizzes cannot be made up.

Other work will be accepted up to one week late with a full grade (10%) penalty in the case of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond the student's control.

Classroom Protocol

Please see me if you need disability accommodations.

Please do not leave class unannounced for any reason, especially to answer your phone.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as **student responsibilities**, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. **Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.**

English 116, Myth in Literature, Spring 2020 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

| Week/Lesson /Module | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.) | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | 1/23 | Frazer, <i>Golden Bough</i> (text provided) | |
| 1 | 1/28 | Creation: (<i>Genesis</i> 1 and 2), <i>Gospel of John</i> 1, <i>Psalm</i> 33 (all Biblical, all on-line) | |
| 2 | 1/30 | <i>Song of Songs</i> (on-line) | |
| 2 | 2/4 | <i>Egyptian Love Songs</i> (humanistictexts.org), <i>Sappho's Hymn to Aphrodite</i> (on-line) | |
| 3 | 2/6 | <i>Hymn to Isis at her temple at Philae</i> , <i>Hymn to Isis</i> by Isidorus, <i>Homeric Hymn to Demeter</i> (all available on-line) | |
| 3 | 2/11 | Plutarch, <i>De Iside et Osiride</i> (available on-line) | |
| 4 | 2/13 | Plutarch (continued). READING QUIZ | |
| 4 | 2/18 | The Battles of Horus (sacred-texts.com), The Legend of St George (The Golden Legend, Volume 3:58, Fordham University website) | |
| 5 | 2/20 | First Reading Response (in-class) | |
| 5 | 2/25 | Cults of Mary and Jesus (texts provided) | |
| 6 | 2/27 | Orpheus::; Virgil, <i>Georgics</i> IV:453-527, Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> X:1-85 | |
| 6 | 3/3 | <i>Sir Orfeo</i> (Middle English) READING QUIZ | |
| 7 | 3/5 | Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> (trans. Shoaf, University of Florida) | |
| 7 | 3/10 | Fairy Lovers (text provided) | |
| 8 | 3/12 | Shakespearean echoes of Greek myths and Celtic fairies (Juno, Hecate, Queen Mab, Puck, Titania, Oberon, Ariel) (text provided) | |
| 8 | 3/17 | Old Norse Creation: The Poetic Edda: The Voluspo (sacred-texts.org) | |
| 9 | 3/19 | Old Norse: <i>The Poetic Edda: Alvismol, Audun and the Polar Bear Reading</i> (csus.edu website) | |
| 9 | 3/24 | <i>Zend Avesta</i> (links will be provided) READING QUIZ | |
| 10 | 3/26 | Second Reading Response (in-class) | |
| 10 | 3/28 -4/5 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 11 | 4/7 | <i>Rig Veda</i> (sacred-texts.com. Poems # 7, 8, 12, 64, 92, 105) | |
| 11 | 4/9 | Lecture on Buddhism and <i>I Ching</i> (text provided) | |

| Week/Lesson /Module | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i> | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|--|
| 12 | 4/14 | Journey to the West Chapter 1 (on-line) | |
| 12 | 4/16 | Journey to the West Chapter 2 | |
| 13 | 4/21 | Journey to the West Chapter 3 | |
| 13 | 4/23 | Journey to the West Chapter 4 <u>READING QUIZ</u> | |
| 14 | 4/28 | Oral reports | |
| 14 | 4/30 | Oral reports | |
| 15 | 5/5 | Oral reports | |
| 15 | 5/7 | Oral reports | |
| 16 | | | |
| Final Exam | | Final Research Papers DUE on Canvas Tuesday, May 19 at 945 am | |