

**San José State University**  
**English Department**  
**English 215, Myth and Symbolism, Fall 2022**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Nancy Stork
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 10:30-11:30 AM; Thursday, 6 - 7 pm and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays, 4:00-6:45 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Zoom

### **Course Description**

Comparative study of mythic and symbolic forms in literature, focusing on theory and a variety of texts. With prior permission of graduate advisor may be repeatable once for credit. Prerequisite: Classified standing or instructor consent. Note: This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

1. Analyze fairy tales, sagas, modern fantasy, medieval myths and Symbolist poetry
2. Understand the modern history of critical approaches to mythic texts
3. Do independent research into written texts that arise out of an oral tradition

### **Textbooks**

1. *The Classic Fairy Tales*, ed. Maria Tatar, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Norton Critical Editions 978-0-393-60297-5  
n.b. Do NOT buy the first edition and do NOT buy a similarly titled work by the same author called *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales*
2. Neil Gaiman, *Neverwhere*, Avon Book, 1998
3. *The Saga of the Volsungs with The Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok*, trans. J. Crawford, 2017

## Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Oral report on a critic or critical school	20%
Bring in a Symbolist Poem	20%
Oral Presentation of your final paper	20%
Reading Quiz	10%
Final Research Paper (3,000 words)	30%

## Grading Policy

Oral presentations will be graded on fluency of oral communication as well as intellectual content.

Written work will be assessed for style, clarity, and intellectual content.

The usual percentages are used to determine grades of A, B, C, etc.

**Late work** can be accepted up to one week late in the event of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond the student's control. Late work will be subject to a full grade penalty, i.e. A to B, B to C, etc.

## Schedule of Classes

Aug 23	Introduction to wolves in the Bible, Greece, Rome and China: Jesus as Good Shepherd, Zeus Lycaon, Lupercalia, Romulus and Remus, The Wolf of Zhongshan
Aug 30	<i>Saga of the Volsungs.</i> Begin presentations on critics
Sep 6	<i>Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok.</i>
Sep 13	Wulf and Eadwacer, St. Edmund, King and Martyr Little Flowers of St. Francis, Ch. 21, J. L. Borges, Wolf poem

- Sep 20 *Ysengrimus* (summary only),  
Caxton's *Reynard* , ed Morley, Chapters 1-2, 33-41  
Marie de France, *Bisclavret*
- Sep 27 *Little Red Riding Hood* (please read all selections in Tatar)
- Oct 4 *Bluebeard* (please read all selections in Tatar)
- Oct 11 *Beauty and the Beast* (please read all selections in Tatar)
- Oct 18 *Puss in Boots*, Perrault.  
*Begin Neverwhere*
- Oct 25 *Neverwhere*
- Nov 1 J. L. Borges "The Library of Babel",  
"The Garden of Forking Paths"  
"Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius".  
Guest: Author Martin Hadis
- Nov 8 Bring a Symbolist poem
- Nov 15 Presentations on Final Paper Topics. Reading Quiz
- Nov 22 Presentations
- Nov 29 Presentations
- Dec 6 Presentations

Links to on-line texts:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wulf\\_and\\_Eadwacer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wulf_and_Eadwacer)

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Translation:St.\\_Edmund,\\_King\\_and\\_Martyr](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Translation:St._Edmund,_King_and_Martyr)

<https://www.franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assisi-early-documents/the-prophet/the-little-flowers-of-saint-francis/2502-fa-ed-3-page-601>

<https://www.poetryverse.com/jorge-luis-borges-poems/a-wolf>

<https://brill.com/view/title/1889>. (Has summary of Ysengrimus)

<https://bestiary.ca/etexts/morley-history-of-reynard-the-fox.pdf>

<https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/bisclavret.pdf>

[sites.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault04.html](http://sites.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault04.html)

<https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/226/2015/12/Borges-The-Library-of-Babel.pdf>

<http://mycours.es/gamedesign2012/files/2012/08/The-Garden-of-Forking-Paths-Jorge-Luis-Borges-1941.pdf>

<https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/226/2015/12/Borges-TI%C3%B6n-Uqbar-Orbius-Tertius.pdf>

Final Papers DUE: On CANVAS, Monday, December 12 by MIDNIGHT

## University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.