

San José State University
English 116, Myth in Literature, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Professor N. Stork
Office Location:	Zoom
Email:	Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 3 - 4 pm, Thursday 12 noon - 1 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TR 10:30-11:45 AM
Classroom:	Zoom (on-line synchronous)
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing

Course Description

Max Müller, a scholar of Sanskrit, once said that “Mythology is a disease of language.” I prefer to think of it as an inevitable feature. By looking at the earliest recorded myths from a variety of cultures, we will try to understand how mythology arises from language, ritual, folk belief and visual culture. We will also read myths from later time periods and those that have traveled between cultures, including Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Celtic, Norse, Christian, Middle Eastern, Mexican, African, 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.

Course Format

In person lecture and discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Write effective analyses of world mythology.

Understand the complex 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

Texts as listed in the syllabus are available on-line

Course Requirements and Assignments

Two Reading Responses @ 20% each	40%
Reading quiz	10%
Oral Presentation of final project	20%
Final Research Project	30%

Two Options for Final Research Project:

3,000 word essay. OR

Visual Project with introduction of 500-800 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.

Please see me if you would like extra help in addressing any writing issues.

Late Policy:

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.

For work more than one week late, a 20% penalty may be allowed. Please see me in this case.

Classroom Protocol

Please see me if you need disability accommodations.

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>), 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 2022 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)	
1	1/27	Introduction	
1	2/1	<i>Egyptian Love Songs</i> (humanistictexts.org)	
2	2/3	<i>Song of Songs (Biblical)</i> (on-line)	
2	2/8	<i>Battles of Horus</i> (sacred-texts.com)	
3	2/10	<i>The Legend of St George</i> (The Golden Legend, Volume 3:58, Fordham University website)	
3	2/15	Excerpts from <i>The Golden Ass</i> , Chapters 1-5, 9, 15-17, 47-48 https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1666/1666-h/1666-h.htm	
4	2/17	A MAN AND HIS DONKEY Exodus 20:17 Deuteronomy 22:10 Job 39:5-8 Judges 15:16 Numbers 21-22 (Balaam's Ass) 1Kings 1:38 Matthew 21 Mark 11 Luke 19 John 12	
4	2/22	Nasruddin, https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/earthbeat/ecocatholic/nasruddin-and-his-donkey-ales-holy-fool Sancho Panza, <i>Don Quixote</i> , Chs. 8 and 9 https://www.gutenberg.org/files/996/996-h/996-h.htm#ch1 Bottom, <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Act 3:Scene 1 and Act 4, Scene 1 http://shakespeare.mit.edu/midsummer/	
5	2/24	First Reading Response DUE midnight. We will discuss your ideas in-class	

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)	
5	3/1	SNAKE WOMEN: Eve, <i>Genesis</i> 3: 1-22 Medusa and Echidna, Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i> , lines 270-305 https://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html Melusina, The Legend of Beautiful Melusina, Ancestress of Luxembourg Counts, https://sites.pitt.edu/~dash/melusina.html#scudder Mami Wata, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mami_Wata	
6	3/3	INVISIBLE KNIGHTS: The Story of Balin and Balan, Malory, <i>Morte D/Arthur</i> , Book II, Chapters I-XIX https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1251/1251-h/1251-h.htm#chap28	
6	3/8	THE UNDEAD: Selections from <i>Grettir's Saga</i> (Chapters 32-35, 65 and 66), https://www.gutenberg.org/files/347/347-h/347-h.htm <i>Njal's Saga</i> , Chapter LXXVII (77) "Gunnarr Sings a Song Dead" and Chapter CXXIX (129) "Skarpheddin's Death" https://www.gutenberg.org/files/17919/17919-h/17919-h.htm RESURRECTION: Shunamite Woman's Son, 2Kings 4: 8-37 Lazarus, John 11	
7	3/10	<i>The Spectre Ship</i> https://fairytalez.com/history-spectre-ship/	
7	3/15	FAIRY LOVERS: Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/lanval.pdf	
8	3/17	Marie de France, <i>Yonec</i> https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/yonec.pdf	
8	3/22	<i>King Henry</i> and <i>Tam Lin</i> , Child Ballads 32 and 39 https://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/child/index.htm	
9	3/24	Anansi Comes to America. http://anansistories.com/Anansi_Came_to_America.html READING QUIZ (last 30 minutes of class)	

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)	
9	3/29	<i>Spring Break</i>	
10	3/31	<i>Spring Break</i>	
10	4/5	Second Reading Response DUE MIDNIGHT. Class Discussion of your ideas.	
11	4/7	<i>The Bamboo-Cutter's Tale (Princess Moonbeam)</i> /japanese-fairy-tales-002-the-bamboo-cutter-and-the-moon-child%20(1).pdf	
11	4/12	<i>Rig Veda</i> (sacred-texts.com. Poems # 7, 8, 12, 64, 92, 105)	
12	4/14	<i>Journey to the West Chapter 1</i> https://chine.in/fichiers/jourwest.pdf	
12	4/19	<i>Journey to the West Chapter 2</i>	
13	4/21	<i>Journey to the West Chapter 3</i>	
13	4/26	<i>Journey to the West Chapter 4</i>	
14	4/28	Oral reports	
14	5/1	Oral reports	
15	5/3	Oral reports	
15	5/10	Oral reports	
16	5/12	Oral reports	
Final Exam		Final Research Papers DUE on Canvas Friday, May 20 at midnight	