This class explores the wide realm of literature concerned with folk beliefs, imagination and dreams. We will leave behind the mundane narratives 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 with some attention to Chinese mythology.

Grading:

One reading response (1500 words) 20%
(free choice of date, text and topic)

Oral Presentation on Criticism 20%

Malory Prose Analysis (1500 words) 20%

Final Paper: Textual History (4,000 words) 40%

Required Texts:

(When reading the fairy tales, please read all versions in the Norton edition.)

Please DO NOT BUY the book with a very similar title The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales by the same author.

Byock, Jesse. The Saga of the Volsungs


Journey to the West online:
Schedule of Classes:

Aug 25  Ballads from Child's Scottish and English Ballads. The Fairy Lover

Sep 1   Ancient Eros: Read Song of Songs (any translation is fine) and Egyptian Love Songs  [www.humanistictexts.org/egyptlov.htm]

Sep 8   Tom Thumb, Puss in Boots (Charles Perrault, on line) Hansel and Gretel (Classic Fairy Tales)

Sep 15  Little Red Riding Hood

Sep 22  Beauty and the Beast

Sep 29  Bluebeard

Oct 6   Saga of the Volsungs

Oct 13  Saga of the Volsungs

Oct 20  Start Malory (p. 3-40, How Uther Pendragon, etc.)

Oct 27  Malory, p. 40-62 (Balyn and Balan),

Nov 3   Sankgreal, 462-488, 496-506, 521-531

Nov 10  Malory, Tale of Sir Launcelot and Quene Gwenyvere, 588-645

Nov 17  Dethe of Arthur, 646-698

Nov 24  Malory Prose Analyses DUE and presented in class. Discussion

Dec 1   Journey to the West  Chapters 1 - 4

Dec 8   Finish Journey to the West.

Final Papers DUE: Wednesday, December 16 at noon