

**English 215
Myth and Symbolism
Professor Stork
Fall 2015**

**Office Hours: Mon, 1300-1500, Tuesday 1500-1600 and by appointment
924-4477**

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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 (free choice of date, text and topic)	(1500 words)	20%
Oral Presentation on Criticism		20%
Malory Prose Analysis	(1500 words)	20%
Final Paper: Textual History	(4,000 words)	40%

Required Texts:

Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales*, Norton. 1999.

(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*

Shepherd, Stephen. *Le Morte Darthur, Sir Thomas Malory*, Norton Critical Edition

Journey to the West online:

<http://www.chine-informations.com/fichiers/jourwest.pdf>

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