

English 116
Spring 2017
Mythology in Literature
Professor Stork
Office: Faculty Offices Building 218
Office Hours: Tuesday 1630-1730, Thursday 1215-1315, and by appointment
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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.

Late policy: Please make every effort to get your work in on time. Late work in the case of a genuine and compelling emergency will be accepted up to one week after the due date for a penalty of one full grade, e.g. A to B, B to C.

Please see me if you need disability accommodations.

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

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

Required Text:

Jesse Byock, *The Saga of The Volsungs*, University of California Press, Berkeley.
Other texts are all available on-line.

Essay Grades:

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.

Grading Percentages:

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| Three reading responses (1200 words each): | 75% |
| Final Exam: | 25% |

Schedule of Classes:

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| Jan | 26 | Introduction, James Frazier, <i>The Golden Bough</i> |
| | 31 | Song of Songs (Biblical, available on-line) |
| Feb | 2 | Egyptian Love Poetry (text provided) |
| | 7 | Hymns to Isis at her temple at Philae, Hymn to Isis by Isidorus |
| | 9 | Plutarch, <i>De Iside et Osiride</i> (available on-line) |
| | 14 | <i>Homeric Hymn to Demeter</i> (available on-line) |
| | 16 | <i>The Battles of Horus</i> (sacred-texts.com), <i>The Legend of St George (The Golden Legend, Volume 3:58, Fordham University website)</i> |
| | 21 | Cults of Mary and Jesus (texts and links provided) |
| | 23 | <u>First reading response DUE.</u> Class discussion. |
| | 28 | Orpheus: Virgil, <i>Georgics</i> IV: 453-527, Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> X:1-85 |
| Mar | 2 | <i>Sir Orfeo</i> (Middle English) (Norton Anthology or U of Rochester online) |
| | 7 | Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> (trans. Shoaf, Univ. of Florida) |
| | 9 | Shakespearean echoes of Greek myths and Celtic fairies (Juno, Hecate, Queen Mab, Puck, Titiana, Oberon, Ariel) |
| | 14 | <i>Saga of the Volsungs</i> |
| | 16 | <i>Saga of the Volsungs</i> |
| | 21 | <i>Saga of the Volsungs</i> |
| | 23 | <i>Saga of the Volsungs</i> |
| Mar 27-31 | | Spring Break |
| Apr | 4-6 | Professor Stork away at Medieval Academy Conference |
| | 11 | <u>Second Reading Response DUE.</u> Class Discussion |
| | 13 | St. Margaret, (<i>Golden Legend</i> 5:113 or UC Davis version), <i>Revelation</i> 12-13 |
| | 18 | <i>Rig-Veda, Zend Avesta, I Ching</i> (selections and links will be provided) |
| | 20 | Lecture on the Life of Buddha |
| | 25 | <i>Golden Legend, The Story of Barlaam and Josaphat</i> (saintwiki.com) |
| | 27 | <i>Journey to the West</i> , (chine.in), Chapter One |
| May | 2 | <i>Journey to the West</i> , Chapter Two |
| | 4 | <i>Journey to the West</i> , Chapter Three |
| | 9 | <i>Journey to the West</i> , Chapter Four |
| | 11 | Third Reading Response DUE. Class Discussion. |
| | 16 | Review for Final Exam |

Final Exam:

Tuesday, May 23, 715-930 AM!!