

# Myth in Literature Section 80

## ENGL 116

Spring 2025 Fully Online 4 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/23/2025

### Course Information

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#### Course Description

Max Müller, the first European professor of Sanskrit, once said that “Mythology is a disease of language.” I prefer to think of it as a distinctive 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, 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 Description and Requisites

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Relations between archetypes, artistic style and cultural context in masterworks, ancient through modern.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Letter Graded

### Classroom Protocols

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Please do not use AI for your research or writing. Lively discussion is encouraged.

### Program Information

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The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”).

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

### Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

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### Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: [www.sjsu.edu/english](https://www.sjsu.edu/english) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: [english@sjsu.edu](mailto:english@sjsu.edu) (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

## Course Goals

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### 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*

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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### Course Learning outcomes

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*

## Course Materials

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### Required Texts/Readings

#### Textbook

Texts as listed in the syllabus are available on-line

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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### Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Response	20%
Reaction Paper to Angel's Egg	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Oral Presentation of final project	20%
Final Research Project	20%

*Two Options for Final Research Project:*

2,500 word essay. OR

Visual Project with introduction of 500-800 words

## ✓ Grading Information

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### 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 or email if you have 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) (<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.

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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### Course Schedule

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
1	1/23	Introduction, James Frazer <i>The Golden Bough</i> (no need to read anything for this class)
1	1/28	Read Clifford Geertz, <i>Cock Fighting in Bali</i>  <a href="https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/PDF/410/Geertz72.pdf">https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/PDF/410/Geertz72.pdf</a>
2	1/30	Personal Day – no class meeting
2	2/4	Read <i>The Homeric Hymn to Demeter</i>  <a href="https://uh.edu/~cldue/texts/demeter.html">https://uh.edu/~cldue/texts/demeter.html</a>
3	2/6	<i>Egyptian Love Songs</i> (humanistictexts.org), <i>Sappho's Hymn to Aphrodite</i> (on-line)
3	2/11	Plutarch, <i>Isis and Osiris</i> , Introduction – p. 70.  <a href="https://archive.org/details/plutarch-isis-osiris-loeb/page/73/mode/2up?view=theater">https://archive.org/details/plutarch-isis-osiris-loeb/page/73/mode/2up?view=theater</a>

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
4	2/13	<p>MEN AND DONKEYS</p> <p>Excerpts from <i>The Golden Ass</i>, Chapters 1-5, 9, 15-17, 47-48</p> <p><a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1666/1666-h/1666-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1666/1666-h/1666-h.htm</a></p>
4	2/18	<p>Exodus 20:17</p> <p>Deuteronomy 22:10</p> <p>Job 39:5-8</p> <p>Judges 15:16</p> <p>Numbers 21-22 (Balaam's Ass)</p> <p>1Kings 1:38</p> <p>Matthew 21</p> <p>Mark 11</p> <p>Luke 19</p> <p>John 12</p>
5	2/20	<p>Nasruddin, <a href="https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/earthbeat/eco-catholic/nasruddin-and-his-donkey-tales-holy-fool">https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/earthbeat/eco-catholic/nasruddin-and-his-donkey-tales-holy-fool</a></p> <p>Sancho Panza, <i>Don Quixote</i>, Chs. 8 and 9</p> <p><a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/996/996-h/996-h.htm#ch1">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/996/996-h/996-h.htm#ch1</a></p> <p>Bottom, <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Act 3:Scene 1 and Act 4, Scene 1</p> <p><a href="http://shakespeare.mit.edu/midsummer/">http://shakespeare.mit.edu/midsummer/</a></p>

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
5	2/25	<p>SNAKE WOMEN:</p> <p>Eve, <i>Genesis</i> 3: 1-22</p> <p>Medusa and Echidna, Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i>, lines 270-305</p> <p><a href="https://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html">https://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html</a></p>
6	2/27	<p>SNAKE WOMEN:</p> <p>Melusina, The Legend of Beautiful Melusina, Ancestress of Luxembourg Counts, <a href="https://sites.pitt.edu/~dash/melusina.html#scudder">https://sites.pitt.edu/~dash/melusina.html#scudder</a></p> <p>Mami Wata, <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mami_Wata">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mami_Wata</a></p>
6	3/4	<p>THE UNDEAD: Selections from <i>Grettir's Saga</i> (Chapters 32-35, 65 and 66), <a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/347/347-h/347-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/347/347-h/347-h.htm</a></p> <p><i>Njal's Saga</i>, Chapter LXXVII (77) "Gunnarr Sings a Song Dead" and Chapter CXXIX (129) "Skarpheddin's Death"</p> <p><a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/17919/17919-h/17919-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/17919/17919-h/17919-h.htm</a></p> <p>RESURRECTION:</p> <p>Shunamite Woman's Son, 2Kings 4: 8-37</p> <p>Lazarus, John 11</p>

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
7	3/6	<p>Reading Response DUE Midnight.</p> <p>We will discuss your ideas in class.</p>
7	3/11	<p>FAIRY LOVERS: Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i></p> <p><a href="https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/lanval.pdf">https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/lanval.pdf</a></p>
8	3/13	<p><i>King Henry</i> and <i>Tam Lin</i>, Child Ballads 32 and 39</p> <p><a href="https://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/child/index.htm">https://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/child/index.htm</a></p>
8	3/18	<p><i>Sundiata, An Epic of Old Mali</i>. Read The Words of the Griot Mamadou Kouyate – The Lion's Awakening, p. xxv – 26</p> <p><a href="https://www.k12.ny.us/cms/lib5/NY01001205/Centricity/Domain/202/Sundiata.pdf">ools.k12.ny.us/cms/lib5/NY01001205/Centricity/Domain/202/Sundiata.pdf</a></p>
9	3/20	<p>Anansi Comes to America. <a href="http://anansistories.com/Anansi_Came_to_America.html">http://anansistories.com/Anansi_Came_to_America.html</a></p>
9	3/25	<p><b>MidTerm Exam</b></p>
10	3/27	<p>Angel's Egg (animated film shown in class)</p>
10	4/1	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>
11	4/3	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>
11	4/8	<p>Reaction Paper to Angel's Egg DUE Midnight. Discussion in class</p>



Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
12	4/10	<i>The Bamboo-Cutter's Tale (Princess Moonbeam)</i>  /japanese-fairy-tales-002-the-bamboo-cutter-and-the-moon-child%20(1).pdf
12	4/15	<i>Rig Veda</i> (sacred-texts.com. Poems # 7, 8, 12, 64, 92, 105)
13	4/17	<i>Journey to the West Chapters 1 and 2</i>
13	4/22	Oral reports
14	4/24	Oral reports
14	4/29	Oral reports
15	5/1	Oral reports
15	5/6	Oral reports
16	5/8	Oral reports
16	5/19	FINAL PAPER OR PROJECT DUE. 12:45 Monday, May 19