

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2015-2016 Comparative Literature 220 B1: Mythology and Literature
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Amir Khadem

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(See the email etiquette instructions on eClass)

Personal Website: N/A

Time: Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00-12:20

Place: Tory 3-65

Office Hours: Tuesday, 13-14

or by appointment

Course Website: e-Class

Course Prerequisite: None

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course explores the world of myths from the earliest time of human history to our modern days. By making parallel readings of many myths in several cultures around the globe, we study the narrative foundation underneath the humans' understanding of their worlds, their societies, and themselves. The course will also look into several works of contemporary literature for their depiction of mythological patterns and arguments. The students' critical engagement with theories of mythology will develop their overall understanding of various literary works, both modern and classic. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate familiarity with several Western and non-Western myth traditions and the methods of analyzing them.

Texts:

These four titles are available for purchase in SUB bookstore:

1. *Parallel Myths*, by J. F. Bierlein.
2. *Homer's Odyssey*, trans. Staley Lombardo.*

3. *The Penelopiad*, by Margaret Atwood.
4. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Other reading materials will be accessible through eClass.

[* This translation is preferable, but you can use other contemporary translations, too. This translation is also fully included in *Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd Ed. Vol. A.]

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Participation and Attendance: 10%

Midterm Exam (20%, February 11, in class)

Short Essay (10%, due March 1 on eClass)

Long Essay (40%, due April 15 on eClass)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction or for circumstances as described in the University’s Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Please consult the website for more information:

[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.3.html#23.3\(2\)](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.3.html#23.3(2))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

The short and long essays’ word limits are, respectively, 1000-1500 and 2200-3000 words. The topics for the short and long essays will be distributed, respectively, on February 11 and March 22. Handouts will be given in the first session of the class regarding the details of the assignments. They will also be available on the eClass.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is

inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department. For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#) .

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, **notify your instructor by e-mail within two days**. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, regular attendance of the class lectures is very important. Students only have **one** absence allowance throughout the semester. Any more absences from the class will lead to partial or total loss of the participation segment of the course grade (10%), unless the student has a valid excuse for his/her absence (e.g., health problems, serious emergency case, serious domestic issues). Planning conflicts or being too busy with assignments of other courses **do not** count as valid excuse for absence.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the

timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension **just one time** throughout the course with no penalty. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. The penalty for late submission of assignments is 5% per day. Example: An essay that is worthy of grade “A” (~92%) will be graded “A-” (~87%) if submitted one day late, and “B+” if submitted two days late. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason. Assignments delivered **more than five days later** than the due date will receive **“F”**.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.