

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2017-2018 C Lit 220, A1: Mythology and Literature
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Professor Daniel Fried
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Personal Website: n/a

Time: TR 2-3:20
Place: T 1-119
Office Hours: W 1-3,
or by appointment
Course Website: see eClass

Course Prerequisite: n/a

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 will investigate the relationship between the content and form of mythological narratives, across a wide range of sources from different civilizations, including modern canonical and subversive reworkings of ancient sources. Among ancient “original” texts, emphasis will be given on understanding the ways in which mythological narrative is shaped by certain social phenomena, especially orature and fluid textuality; but students will be encouraged to see the complexities of such narratives which refute over-simplifying assertions about “primitive” cultures. Within later reworkings of ancient texts, focus will be on how changes in style and characterization allow cultural touchstones to be repurposed to address new political and aesthetic ideals. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to

analyze the relationship between the content of mythological narratives and their form of exposition, and explain how “mythology” is not simply a “primitive” discourse, but a category of narrative which civilizations rework throughout their histories.

Texts:

No books are required or recommended for purchase. All required readings will be from free online sources, or from materials placed on reserve at Rutherford library.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Participation	20%	
Midterm Exam 1	20%	Thurs, Oct. 12
Midterm Exam 2	20%	Thurs, Dec. 5
Final Exam	40%	2-5pm, Thurs, Dec. 14

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Available for scheduling with professor in cases of serious illness or family emergency only, upon approval of an application for a deferred exam by the student’s home Faculty.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

See reading assignment schedule (to be distributed in class) for information on reading assignments and sources.

Class Participation: Regular attendance and participation are an important part of this course, and are assigned a major portion of the grade. Attendance will be taken quietly at the beginning of each class; students are allowed one free absence for the semester. In addition, each student will be expected to demonstrate that s/he has read the material and is capable of engaging with the professor and the rest of the class. Note: In this class, the use of laptops, phones, etc. will be prohibited, except on occasions which may be specified by the instructor.

Exams: The midterm and final exams will each consist only of fifty multiple-choice questions, worth two points each. However, students should expect that these multiple-choice questions will be difficult, requiring both a knowledge of the facts presented in the class, as well as an ability to analyze these facts. All information sources (textbook, powerpoints, film clips, lectures, class discussions, etc.) will be fair game for final exam questions.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) 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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that 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 that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy 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 direct 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 [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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, digital or otherwise, 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. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) 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, participation will be graded as explained above.

Policy for Late Assignments:

In this course, there are no written assignments (other than exams), hence no opportunity to turn in anything late.

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 [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92

<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59