

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

2018-2019 C LIT 220 B1: Mythology and Literature
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Gary Kelly	Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Office: Humanities Centre 4-45	Place: HC 2-11
Telephone: 780-432-2087 Fax: 780-492-9106	Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00, or by appointment
E-mail: gkelly@ualberta.ca	
Personal Website: https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/about/people-collection/gary-kelly	Course Website: n/a

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

Description: Myth of all kinds is increasingly used in literary fiction, films and television, advertising and publicity, videogames, children’s books, and education. This course examines major bodies and themes of world myth, comparative approaches to myth, myth in everyday life, and particular uses of myth in selected earlier and modern literary works and films.

The course begins with an Introduction outlining major concepts and definitions, resources, and approaches, providing a toolkit for the course. This Introduction is followed by a reading of major myths from around the world, familiarizing students with this vast body of literature. Then will follow a critical examination of the concepts of myth and mythology and major approaches to mythography, or the writing down and analysis of myths, as well as myth’s relation to legends, folktales, modern and urban myths, literary fiction, and other media,

and to religion, ritual, psychology, social relations, and political discourse. This critical outline is followed by examination of the major contributors to mythography, or the compilation and study of myths. To apply the knowledge of myth gained as the course progresses and use of myth in literature and culture, individual novels and films will be examined from time to time during the course. For particular topics week-by-week see the Schedule of Classes later in this Course Description. Particular readings and research tasks will be announced in advance by the Instructor through Bear Tracks email (so please ensure you use your U of A email account for this course). Students should create a special desktop folder or email folder for all communications from the Instructor. For particular texts and where to get them, see the Texts list later in this Course Description.

Several approaches to student learning are used. Student learning is encouraged by the following:

- particular study and research assignments from the Instructor
- structured full-class discussion led by the Instructor
- in-class work in small groups
- short in-class individual reports
- a mid-term test
- an individual written Final Course Project.

Assessment and grading of students' work by the Instructor are according to contributions to classroom learning, in-class reports, mid-term test, and the final course project. To encourage individual responsibility for learning and full contribution to classroom learning, a sign-in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of every class. If a class has to be missed, a student will be able to make it up by covering the missed work at an individual meeting with the instructor. Successful learning in this course, as in any undergraduate course, will require about two hours of homework for every hour of class time, or about six hours per week. This ratio is confirmed as appropriate by many education websites.

To ensure a safe learning environment, toleration and respect between students and between students and instructor are required at all times. To avoid distractions, full attention should be given to anyone speaking, food should not be consumed in class, and all internet devices must be switched off unless required by the instructor for particular in-class tasks. Disrespectful or disruptive behaviour may result in expulsion from class.

The Instructor must report any instance of plagiarism to the Arts Faculty office and may have serious consequences—see the sections “Academic Integrity” and “Academic Honesty” later in this Course Description. The Instructor will help all students achieve their academic goals by providing class-by-class guidance for reading and study, by leading full-class discussions, by ensuring structured discussion in class and in small-group tasks, by clarifying any questions or issues, by providing feedback on students' work, and by ensuring fair and respectful treatment for all. For any problems, questions, concerns, assignments, classroom environment, or other relevant matters students should consult the Instructor before or after class, during the Instructor's drop-in office hours, or by appointment or email.

For details of this course's policy on attendance and assignments see the sections “Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components” and “Policy on Late Assignments.”

Objectives: At the end of this course, students will have improved valuable and transferable skills, including critical reading, research methods, communicating research in writing and speaking, collaborative research, and independent research. At the end of this course, students

will also have increased knowledge of myth in culture and society, the range of world myth, comparative methods of study and analysis, literature and its sources, transformations from one artistic medium to others, connecting the past with the present, and relating research to everyday life.

Schedule of Classes:

7 Jan	Introduction: Definitions, Resources, Issues, Tools
9 Jan	”
11 Jan	”
14 Jan	<i>The World(s) of Myth</i> (Leeming, <i>The World of Myth</i> , U of A Bookstore)
16 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
18 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
21 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
23 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
25 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
28 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
30 Jan	” assigned section of Leeming
1 Feb	” assigned section of Leeming
4 Feb	Cultures of Myth: The Classical Mediterranean World
6 Feb	”
8 Feb	Myth and Literature: Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> (U of A Library ebook)
11 Feb	”
13 Feb	”
15 Feb	Mid-term test
18-22 Feb	READING WEEK no classes
25 Feb	Cultures of Myth: India
27 Feb	”
1 Mar	Myth and Film: <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i> (U of A Library or YouTube)
4 Mar	Cultures of Myth: Native North America
6 Mar	”
8 Mar	”
11 Mar	The Mythographers
13 Mar	”
15 Mar	”

18 Mar	
20 Mar	”
22 Mar	Myth and Literature: <i>Black Orpheus</i> (Film: U of A Library database Kanopy)
25 Mar	Myth and Modernity
27 Mar	”
29 Mar	”
1 Apr	Myth and Literature: Wells, <i>War of the Worlds</i> (U of A Library ebook)
3 Apr	”
5 Apr	” and Course evaluations
8 Apr	Workshop final course projects
10 Apr	Workshop final course projects

Texts:

Required:

David A. Leeming, *The World of Myth: An Anthology*, third edn (Oxford)
available through U of A Bookstore

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* ebook available through U of A Library

Black Orpheus film available through Kanopy database at U of A Library

Sita Sings the Blues film available through U of A Library or YouTube

H. G. Wells, *War of the Worlds* ebook available through U of A Library

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Contributions to classroom learning	30%
In-class reports 2 x 15%	30% (due in class on agreed dates)
Mid-term test	10%
<u>Final Course project</u>	<u>30% (due Thursday 12 April)</u>
Total	100%

NOTE: There is no final exam.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): not applicable

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Contributions to classroom learning: Attendance is necessary: if you’re not in class you can’t contribute. Perfect attendance will guarantee a grade of B minus; each missed class will result in a deduction of 5% out of 100% for this element of the course work. Note: if a student must miss a class, advise the instructor in advance if possible, and the missed class may be made up by meeting individually with the instructor. In addition, students should contribute to full-class discussions and small-group work. While some people are more confident and outspoken than others, everyone should learn how to contribute concisely and cogently to a discussion sharing research and ideas. A student’s strong contribution to classroom learning through discussion will result in raising this grade above B minus for this aspect of the course. Similarly, strong contribution to in-class small-group assignments and reporting these to the rest of the class will also result in raised grade for members of the small group in this aspect of the course.

In-class reports: Each student will give a five minute oral report from notes at least twice during the course, on a topic of the student's choice. Criteria for such reports will be distributed early in the course. The first round of such reports will be scheduled by the instructor; the second round will occur at the choice of the individual student in consultation with the instructor. Reports may take several forms: a research report, an opinion piece, a creative version of a myth, an original myth, and so on. The instructor will give individual constructive feedback. Two rounds are offered so that the student can learn and improve from the first round, Instructor's feedback, and other students' reports. This assignment will also prepare the student for the individual Final Course Project.

Mid-term test: a short writing exercise based on material covered in class

Final Course Project: On the last day of classes each student will submit a Final course Project. This should be equivalent to about a ten-page essay. The topic will be chosen by the student in consultation with the Instructor. The project should take what the student has learned in the course and apply that to the topic of the student's choice. Criteria for assessment include originality, correctness, clarity, coherence (organization), and cogency (persuasiveness). Creative projects may be considered.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Student Responsibilities:

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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

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](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance is a component of Contributions to Classroom Learning. For details, see above section “Contributions to Classroom Learning” in “Explanatory Notes on Assignments.” Missed assignments will be graded zero.

Policy for Late Assignments:

To be fair to all members of the class, late or incomplete work will be penalized by an appropriate reduction in the grade for that component of the course. A late assignment will result in deduction of one grade level for each day late (e.g., a B becomes a B minus, then a C plus, etc.). Extenuating circumstances, preferably explained in advance, may be taken into consideration by the Instructor once during the course.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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
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.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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