

# Seminar in Myth and Symbolism Section 80

## ENGL 215

Fall 2024 4 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 09/11/2024

### Course Information

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#### Course Description

Comparative study of mythic and symbolic forms in literature, focusing on a variety of texts and some theory. With prior permission of graduate advisor may be repeatable once for credit. Prerequisite: Classified standing or instructor consent. Note: This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program.

### Course Description and Requisites

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Comparative study of mythic and symbolic forms in literature, focusing on theory and a variety of texts. With prior permission of graduate advisor may be repeatable once for credit.

Prerequisite: Classified standing or instructor consent.

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Letter Graded

### Classroom Protocols

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**Late work** can be accepted up to one week late in the event of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond the student's control. Late work will be subject to a full grade penalty, i.e. A to B, B to C, etc.

## University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

## Course Goals

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### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze fairy tales, medieval romance, Romantic and Symbolist poetry
2. Understand the modern history of critical approaches to mythic texts
3. Do independent research into written texts that arise out of an oral tradition

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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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

Upon successful completion of the MA English program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an appropriate level of expertise in literary history, literary theory, and rhetoric.

2. Demonstrate high-level proficiency in literary research and in the synthesis of research
3. Demonstrate critical and analytical skills in the interpretation and evaluation of literary texts.
4. Demonstrate a command of written academic English, including the abilities to
  - a. organize and present material in a cogent fashion,
  - b. formulate and defend original arguments,
  - c. employ effectively the language of their discipline and
  - d. write under time constraints.
5. Demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language.

Upon successful completion of the MFA in Creative Writing, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a high level of ability to propose and complete a publishable, full-length work of literature in a primary genre concentration (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, or scriptwriting).
2. Demonstrate high level of proficiency to write works of literature in a secondary genre concentration (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, or scriptwriting).
3. Demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of literary history, literary theory, and craft and theory of creative writing.
4. Demonstrate critical and analytical skills in the evaluation and interpretation of literary texts.
5. Demonstrate a command of written academic English, including the abilities to:
  - a) organize and present material in a cogent fashion;
  - b) formulate and defend original arguments;
  - c) employ effectively the language of their discipline;
  - d) write under time constraints.

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#### Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: [www.sjsu.edu/english](http://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 Materials

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### Textbooks

1. *The Classic Fairy Tales*, ed. Maria Tatar, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Norton Critical Editions 978-0-393-60297-5

n.b. Do NOT buy the first edition and do NOT buy a similarly titled work by the same author called *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales*

2. Stephen Shepherd, ed., *Malory's Morte Darthur*, A Norton Critical Edition ISBN: 978-0-393-97464-5

# Course Requirements and Assignments

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## Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Analysis of Malory's Prose Style	20%
Bring in a Symbolist Poem	10%
Oral Presentation of your final paper	20%
Reading Quiz	20%
Final Research Paper (3,000 words)	30%

## Grading Information

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### Grading Policy

Oral presentations will be graded on fluency of oral communication as well as intellectual content.

Written work will be assessed for style, clarity, and intellectual content.

The usual percentages are used to determine grades of A, B, C, etc.

## 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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Schedule of Classes

- Aug 27 Introduction. Begin Malory pp. 3-13 Read Caxton
- Sep 3 Malory. Balyn and Balan pp. 40-61 Read Batt essay
- Sep 10 Malory Sankgreal , 462-506, Read Field essay
- Sep 17 Malory Tale of Sir Launcelot and Quene Gwenyvere, 580-625 Read Heng essay
- Sep 24 Malory Dethe of Arthur, 646-698 Read McCarthy essay
- Oct 1 Finish Malory. Workshop on Prose Analysis papers
- Oct 8 The History of the Spectre Ship, Arab Folktale  
Samuel T. Coleridge, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Prose Analysis DUE midnight, October 12.

- Oct 15 Cinderella (Read all selections in Norton)
- Oct 22 Anti-Cinderella  
Guy de Maupassant, *The Necklace*  
Leo Tolstoy, *After the Dance*  
Katherine Mansfield, *Her First Ball*  
Langston Hughes, *Seven People Dancing*  
Alice Munro, *How I Met My Husband*  
Jamaica Kincaid, *Girl*  
All of the above can be found online as pdfs.

Oct 29 Bluebeard (Read all selections in Norton)

Nov 5 Bring a Symbolist Poem

Nov 12 Presentations on Final Paper Topics Reading QUIZ

Nov 19 Presentations on Final Paper Topics

Nov 26 Presentations

Dec 3 Presentations

Links to on-line texts:

Malory: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/46853/pg46853-images.html>

Spectre Ship: [https://www.worldoftales.com/Asian\\_folktales/Arab\\_folktale\\_61.html#gsc.tab=0](https://www.worldoftales.com/Asian_folktales/Arab_folktale_61.html#gsc.tab=0)

Rime of the Ancient Mariner: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43997/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner-text-of-1834>

Perrault: [sites.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault04.html](http://sites.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault04.html)

Final Papers DUE: On CANVAS, Sunday, December 15 by MIDNIGHT