

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

**2016-2017: C-Lit 220, B1-LEC: Mythology and Literature**  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Mansoureh Modarres  
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E-mail: modarres@ualberta.ca  
Course Website: eClass

Time: T R 11-12:20  
Place: T 3 65  
Office Hours: T R 12:30-1:30,  
or by appointment

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**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 explore different mythological themes and topics in classic and contemporary instances of world literature. It will also introduce theoretical approaches in order to contextualize and examine the select texts. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to situate mythological elements in given texts and identify the texts' literary position in relation to specific mythological themes. Moreover, students will have developed their critical thinking skills, and will be able to compare and contrast texts from different mythological and literary traditions.

**Texts:**

Required readings will be available on eClass\*.

\*Required readings include excerpts from the following titles:

Biriotti, Sophie, and Peter Malone. *Gardens of the Imagination: A Literary Anthology*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1999.

Bulfinch, Thomas. *Bulfinch's Mythology: The Age of Fable: the Age of Chivalry: Legends of Charlemagne*. New York: Modern Library, 1900.

Ferdowsi, Abolqasem *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings*. Trans: Dick Davis. New York: Penguin, 2007.

García Márquez, Gabriel, and Gregory Rabassa. *Leaf Storm: and Other Stories*. 1st U.S. ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.

Milton, John, and John Leonard. *Paradise Lost*. London: Penguin Books, 2003.

Ovid, and Michael Simpson. *The Metamorphoses of Ovid*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 2001.

Puchner, Martin. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2012.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Attendance and class participation	25%
Response paper	25%
Exam #1 (16 Feb)	25%
Exam #2 (6 April)	25%

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):**

N/A

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Class participation:** Students will be offered class activities every session and their participation in the forms of individual/pair/group discussions/written reports will be evaluated throughout the course.

**Exams:** The two exams will test students’ knowledge of the topics discussed in the two halves of the course. Students will be given multiple choice questions, short answers and essay type questions in these exams.

**Response paper:** Students are expected to hand in a paper (1000-1500) written on a title

from a reading list posted on eClass. Students are expected to analyze the text based on specific mythological topics and themes. These essays should be handed in on designated dates in the second half of the class.

Additional descriptions will be available on eClass.

**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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> ) 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 [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 content author(s) 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 [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**, students are allowed 3 absences from the course, and any additional absences will result in loss of 1% of the total grade.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Any assignment not handed in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

***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](mailto: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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>