

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2220F - Studies in Narrative Theory

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. G. Donaldson**Date/Time:** Tuesday 6:00-8:30p.m.**Location:** Talbot College 303**Office:** HUC A302**Office Hours:** See OWL**Course Description:**

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to some of the key issues and debates surrounding thinking about narrative, such as its relation to the world it represents, its relation to the society where it functions, its political and spiritual functions, and the elements that compose narrative. The focus of this year's course is on theories of myth. Myths are amongst our oldest narratives and express human attempts to answer questions of fundamental and universal kinds.

Course Objective:

Those who complete the course successfully will be able to:

- theorize myth
- understand myth as it functions in a number of societies
- understand how myth is used in literature
- recognize patterns and types of myth
- understand the narrative structures of myth

Texts:

Leeming, David A. *The World of Myth*. OUP.

Segal, Robert A. *Myth*. OUP.

Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*. Penguin.

Office Hours:

See OWL

A Note on the Purpose of Office Hours: office hours are an opportunity for informed discussion outside class time.

What I expect of you:

- to have read, thought about, researched and have some views about, the issue in hand.

What you should expect of me:

- to help you develop the ideas you already have; to help you look at things in alternative ways; to make you aware of anything that is relevant that you may not have come upon in the research you have already done.

So, I cannot answer questions such as, “Is this thesis sentence OK” because in so doing I become a co-author of your work while, at the same time, discouraging you from independent, capable thought. What I can do is help you think more carefully about what you already have in mind, help you see what you do and do not know, what you intend to argue and what evidence you have to support your contentions.

Also, the office hour immediately prior to an assignment’s due date has the same number of minutes in it as do other hours. If you leave it to the last minute before an assignment is due to come to an Office Hour, there is no guarantee that others in the class have been any better organized than you and so there may be no available time. Plan accordingly.

Email: gdonalds@uwo.ca

Tel. 519-438-7224 x 238

A Note about email: I strongly encourage you to come to speak with me during Office Hours rather than sending me emails. You are at university to learn how to think. Emails will not help you do that. While you attend university, you have access to many able, educated people. It is not always so in life. Take advantage of the access you have to these educated people: choose discussion, not email.

Academic Accommodation:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>.

The full policy is set out here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodationmedical.pdf>

Examination, Assignments, Dates:

In Class Test	25%	Tuesday, October 13 th .
Participation	15%	
In Class Quizzes	10%	5 quizzes on unannounced dates (no make-ups)
Short Essay	15%	Tuesday, November 3 rd .
Research Essay	35%	Tuesday, December 1 st .

THE COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAMINATION

Late Submissions:

Essays and other assignments are due on the date specified above. Essays may be given to me in the lecture or dropped off in the Essay Drop-Off Box outside the English Department's Main Office. Essays left in the Essay Drop-Off Box after the office closes will be date-stamped the next day. Late essays will be penalized 3% *per diem* (including weekends). Essays submitted more than seven (7) days after the deadline will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. Late essays will receive a grade but no comments.

Plagiarism:

The following statement on plagiarism is from the UWO Senate:
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking. Be aware that if you are caught engaging in plagiarism, it will result, at the very least, in a zero for the assignment.

Lecture Schedule:

September

Tuesday, 15 th .	Course Introduction
Tuesday, 22 nd .	Segal, <i>Myth</i> pp. 1-35
Tuesday, 29 th .	Segal, <i>Myth</i> pp. 36-65

October

Tuesday, 6 th .	Segal, <i>Myth</i> pp. 66-125
Tuesday, 13 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Cosmic Myths pp.1-84.
Tuesday, 20 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Cosmic Myths pp.1-84.
Tuesday, 27 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Myths of the Gods pp. 85-164.

November

Tuesday, 3 rd .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Myths of the Gods pp. 85-164.
Tuesday, 10 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Hero Myths pp.165-273.
Tuesday, 17 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Hero Myths pp. 165-273.
Tuesday, 24 th .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Place and Object Myths pp. 274-305.

December

Tuesday, 1 st .	<i>The World of Myth</i> : Place and Object Myths pp. 274-305.
Tuesday, 8 th .	Review

N.B. There are no lectures explicitly on Sophocles' trilogy. Instead, Sophocles' plays will be used, from time to time, to illustrate one or another aspect of myth. The research essay due at the end of the course will ask you to discuss *The Theban Plays* in relation to specified theories of myth.