

# ENGLISH 6330.793. Fall 2019

## Literature and Mythology



George Frederic Watts, *Orpheus and Eurydice*

Leicester Galleries

### Basic Information

Professor Sophia Andres

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E-mail: Through Class Messages or [andres\\_s@utpb.edu](mailto:andres_s@utpb.edu)

Office: Mesa Building 3652, UTPB, Odessa, TX

Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:00, W 1:00-4:00 By phone or class messages

This course is a Web Course and is conducted within Canvas at <http://utpb.instructure.com>

**NOTE: The due dates and times for the activities will adhere to the Central Time Zone.**

## **Course Description**

**Course Catalog Description:** This course explores the power of myths in shaping the human psyche and in developing cultural and sociopolitical perspectives. Simultaneously it emphasizes the importance of mythology to the understanding of literature and art.

## **Learning Objectives/Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

By completing this course students will be able to do the following:

- Define and understand classical myths (Greek and Roman).
- Identify mythological allusions in poetry and fiction and popular culture and understand their significance.
- Discuss various interpretations of myths
- Discuss the ideological forces that shape mythological constructs.
- Discuss the effects of mythology on gender constructs.
- Relate mythology to psychology, literature, art and culture.

## **Prerequisites:**

Admission in the English M.A. program or 24 undergraduate English hours. No formal prerequisites are required; I have structured the course with the assumption that students do not have a basic knowledge of Greek or Roman mythology.

## **English Program Mission**

The mission of the department of literature is to provide students with a knowledge of British and American literature written by canonical and noncanonical writers with special attention to poetry, fiction, drama, often with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of literature and on the structure and complexity of the English language. Through the teaching of literary works of the past and present, the department provides students with opportunities to relate cultural, historical, aesthetic, social and psychological issues of literary works to their own psychological, sociopolitical and cultural conditions today. In the process, students also learn the importance of respecting other people's perspectives in order to achieve social and global harmony.

## **English M.A. Program Goals**

- To train students to work with the materials of literature with scholarly competence and maturity.

- To provide students with a knowledge of major periods, movements, and genres in British and American literature.
- To enhance students' awareness of the cultural contexts of theoretical and literary works.
- To provide rhetorical skills in preparation for such professions as teaching, law, publishing and public relations.
- To empower students by motivating them to increase the knowledge of their field by their own contribution of original work.

## Required Materials

### Texts

- Byatt, A. S., *Angels and Insects*, “Morpho Eugenia” (Vintage Books, 1994)
- Coelho, Paulo, *The Zahir* (Harper Perennial)
- Harris, Stephen L. and Gloria Platzner, eds. *Classical Mythology: Images and Insights*, 6th ed. or a later one (McGraw Hill, 2008)
- Jung, Carl, *Man and his Symbols* (Dell, 1964)
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Norton Critical Edition, 2010)

### Important Academic Dates

UTPB Academic [Calendar](#)

### Course Overview, Schedule of Assignments

**All Assignments are due by 11:00 P.M. central time on the Saturday of each week.**

**Responses to classmates' posts by 5:00 P.M. on Sundays. Please note that you don't get full credit for your posts unless you post two responses to your classmates' posts.**

Module1	Greek Civilization and the Meaning of Myths	
Week 1	<b>Discussion board</b> on lectures on mythology	200
	<b>Discussion board</b> on the meanings of myths	200
Module2	Sociopolitical Functions of Myths and Gender Constructs	200
Week 2	<b>Discussion board</b> on study questions in chapters 1 and 20 in <i>Classical Mythology</i>	

Module3	Interpretations of Myths	200
Week 3	<b>Discussion board</b> on chapters 2 and 5 in <i>Classical Mythology</i>	
Module4	Greek Gods and Goddesses, "Morpho Eugenia"	
Week 4	<b>Discussion board</b> on study questions in chapt. 6, 7, 8	200
Module5	The Complexities of Gods, "Morpho Eugenia"	200
Week 5	<b>Discussion board</b> on study questions, 4, 5, 9	200
	<b>Discussion board</b> on myths in "Morpho Eugenia"	
Module6	Myths and the Human Psyche, Carl Jung, <i>The Zahir</i>	
Week 6	<b>Discussion board</b> on a Jungian Concept and The Zahir	200
	<b>Discussion board</b> on the <i>Odyssey</i> and the <i>Zahir</i>	200
Module7	The Process of Individuation, <i>The Zahir</i>	
Week 7	<b>Discussion board</b> on Jung and the Zahir	200
Module8		2000
Week 8	<b>Paper</b>	

## Final Paper

### Final Paper Instructions

The paper should be 10-15 pages (Times Roman 12 font) and follow the format (MLA). Since this paper will include some research, it is important that you complete your reading assignments before the end of the semester and that you begin your research early.

Taking into consideration some of the myths and theories of myths we have studied, your paper should reflect your understanding of the complexity of myths and their theoretical and cultural manifestations as well as the importance of myths to our understanding of literature. The Selected Bibliography at the end of each one of the chapters in your textbook may also serve as your guide to the research of the topic you have undertaken.

If you do not wish to write on one of the following topics, you may choose your own topic but it must be related to one of the works we have studied in class; you must also discuss your topic with me in advance. You may read my article, "Narrative Challenges to Visual Gendered Boundaries: Mary Shelley and Henry Fuseli," *Journal of Narrative Theory* 31 (Fall 2001): 257-282, as an example of the possibilities of approaches to mythological subjects or revisions of classical myths by women writers. Those of you who would like to write about the gaze may find helpful my article, "George Eliot's Challenge to Gendered Disparities." *Victorian Newsletter* 95 (Spring 1999): 27-33. You may find both articles in Project Muse.

Use the MLA style for your Works Cited. You must use at least 6 scholarly sources for your paper. The length of your paper should be 10-15 pages.

The Paper will be graded according to the Paper Grading Rubric in Final Paper Instructions.

### Suggested topics for final paper.

**If you'd rather write on a topic other than the ones listed here, you must have me approve it in advance; otherwise your grade will be severely affected.**

1. The mythological roots of the theory of the gaze applied to "Morpho Eugenia." (See my article on George Eliot and Medusa for the theory of the gaze)
2. Revisions of classical myths and gender constructs in "Morpho Eugenia"
3. Paulo Coehlo's *The Zahir* as a postmodern epic (you must include some postmodern theories on the epic--see bibliography in chapter on the *Odyssey*)
4. A postmodern approach to the *Odyssey* in Coehlo's *The Zahir*
5. A Jungian approach to or the process of individuation in *The Zahir*.

6. Music as communication in mythology.
7. Representations of myths by male vs female nineteenth-century classical-subject painters and some of the cultural beliefs on gender such representations convey. (This topic is for those of you who have taken my classes before and have written about literature and art). You must include art historians' interpretations on the paintings you choose.

**Grading:**

Discussion Boards (10)	2000 points
Paper	2000 points
Total	4000

**Grading Scale:**

A	90 - 100%, 3,600-4,000 points
B	80 - 89%, 3,599-3,200 points
C	70 - 79%, 3,199-2,800 points
D	60% - 69%, 2,799-2,400 points

*\*Unless otherwise stated, all materials, activities, and assessments are required and are not optional.*

**Communication, Grading & Feedback:** My preferred method of contact is through course messages. I respond to student messages within 48 hours M-F. I grade assignments within 48-72 hours after they have been posted or before the new assignments are due. And I provide individual feedback with my grades.

**Time Management:** Depending on your reading skills, you should expect to spend 5-7 hours each week studying for this course. Remember this is a 8 week course to which we have added an additional week so that you can write your paper. In these 8 weeks we cover material otherwise covered in 16 weeks. Do not fall behind. Late assignments will not be accepted.

## Policies

1. **Discussion Board:** Discussion Board is primarily for discussing course related topics and issues.

Best practices are:

- a. Read all message postings in online discussion.
  - b. Respond to the question directly
  - c. Reply to minimum of two other student posts.
  - d. Use a person's name in the body of your message when you reply to their message.
  - e. Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc.
  - f. Ensure responses to questions are meaningful, reflective.
  - g. Support statements with concepts from course readings and you may refer to personal experience, examples.
  - h. Follow **Rules of Behavior**.
2. **Rules of Behavior:** Discussion areas are public to every student in this class (including your instructor) who will see what you write. Please pay attention to the language you use and adhere to the following guidelines:
    - a. Do not post anything too personal.
    - b. Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.
    - c. Do not use all caps in the message box unless you are emphasizing (it is considered shouting).
      - a. Be courteous and respectful to other people on the list
      - b. Do not overuse acronyms like you would use in text messaging. Some of the list participants may not be familiar with acronyms.
      - c. Use line breaks and paragraphs in long responses.
      - d. Write your full name at the end of the posting.
      - e. Be careful with sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke is another person's insult.
  3. **Make-Up/Late Submission Policy:**

Late discussion board postings and papers will not be accepted. Computers are not always reliable, so be sure to have a back-up plan and don't leave your work till the last minute. Always make extra file copies of your work and double check to see that attachments have attached. All due dates are firm. Being sick or having computer problems doesn't excuse you from class work or assignments. Late assignments will not receive points. It's important to contact me in advance if you are having problems. The office of [Student Services](#) and the [University Counseling Center](#) can also help if you are having personal issues that interfere with your school work.
  4. **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating:** The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. A



student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an “F” for the course.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the [University’s Handbook: Scholastic Dishonesty](#).

**Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

5. **Attendance and Class Participation:** Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. Students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.
6. **Tracking:** The learning management systems have a tracking feature. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.
7. **Absenteeism:** All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation. Thus, if you are ill for a prolonged time and cannot complete the activities, you must contact me and update the situation. You are expected to log into the course at least once a week. For summer courses you are required to log in every day.
8. **Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal:**  
All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given and will only be granted if the student has complete at least 75% of the course with a grade of 'C' or better and provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time and has contacted prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.



Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals consult the University Handbook: [Drops and Withdrawals](#) and [Appeal Process](#).

9. **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who is requesting an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter from the ADA Officer for Students. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. \*\*Adapted from UTSA ADA syllabus statement.\*\*

**ADA Officer for Students:** Mr. Paul Leverington

**Address:** Mesa Building 4243 /4901 E. University, Odessa, TX 79762

**Voice Telephone:** 432-552-4696

**Email:** [ada@utpb.edu](mailto:ada@utpb.edu)

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within online and blended UTPB courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

## **Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements**

Students will need to be able to create word processing documents, save files and submit files.

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information, refer to [UTPB Office 365 Page](#).

**Computer Technical Requirements:** Information at [Technical Requirements](#).

## **Online Student Authentication**

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB’s Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB’s Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies student authentication by submission to an authentication assignment.

Approved up to date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD. Dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

Please provide through the assignment drop box:

A clear image of yourself

In color

1. Well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image
2. Must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance
3. Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
4. With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open
5. Then a picture of your ID with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers).
6. I just need to see you, then the image of you on the card with your name. Make sure to attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

## Preparation for Emergencies

**Computer Crash:** Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

**Complete Loss of Contact:** If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.

**Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files:** You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

## End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end-of-course evaluation/survey provided by UTPB. During the last few weeks of class, you will receive an announcement through email notifying you that the Course/Instructor Survey is available. You may follow the link in the email to complete the survey using the same credentials to access your courses here. When entering the emailed Survey link you will see a list of surveys for you to complete. Another way to find End-of-Course Evaluations is through you my.utpb.edu account > My Surveys & Evaluations are on the first page after you login.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

## Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA Accommodation/Support	<a href="#">Testing Services &amp; Academic Accommodations Department</a> (432) 552-2630
Advising	<a href="#">UTPB E-Advisor</a> (432) 552-2661 <a href="#">UTPB Academic Advising Center</a>
Bookstore	<a href="#">UTPB Campus Bookstore</a> (432) 552-0220
Email, Outlook 365, my.utpb.edu	<a href="#">Information Resources Division</a> (IRD)
Financial Aid and Scholarship	<a href="#">UTPB Financial Aid</a> (432) 552-2620
Library	The <a href="#">J. Conrad Dunagan Library</a> Online at (432) 552-2370
Registrar	<a href="#">UTPB Registrar</a> (432) 552-2635
Student Services	<a href="#">Dean of Students</a> (432) 552-2600
Technical Support	<a href="#">Canvas</a> 1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: <a href="#">Smarthinking Online Tutoring</a> (provides tutoring services), <a href="#">SmarterMeasure</a> (measures learner readiness for online course).

## Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes

in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

### **Copyright Statement**

Many of the materials that are posted within UTPB courses are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for the purpose of the course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.