



UT PERMIAN BASIN

COMM 3389 001

Multilisting Course

Fall 2023 Session 001

Delivery Method: Face to Face

Instructor Information

Name: Jeremy Cox

Email: cox_j@utpb.edu

Phone: (432) 552-2319

Office Location: MB 4132

Office Hours: T & R 2:00-4:00; F 9:00-10:00 (by appointment)

Course Information

Class Location: Mesa Building 4147

Class Time: 09:30 AM

Course Description

Undergraduate courses which will be offered only once or will be offered infrequently or which are being developed before a regular listing in the catalog.

A study of the rhetorical, philosophical, and ethical principles of myth and its relation to public memory and group identity.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Analyze and discuss the roles of myth and public memory in politics and society at large 2. Apply theories of political myth to a substantial research project 3. Identify and analyze rhetorical principles of political myth-making. 4. Evaluate broad political processes using various critical, rhetorical, and ethical standards.

Additional Materials

Note: You can find copies of the following materials through our library's website and our Canvas page.

Balthrop, V. William. "Culture, Myth, and Ideology as Public Argument: An Interpretation of the Ascent and Demise of 'Southern Culture'." *Communication Monographs* 51 (4): 339-352. Barthes, Roland. "Myth Today," in *Mythologies*. Translated by Richard Howard and Annette Lavers. New York: Hill and Wang, 2012. Bennet, Lance W. "Myth, Ritual, and Political Control." *Journal of Communication* 30 (4): 166-79. Bercovitch, Sacvan. *The Rites of Assent: Transformations in the Symbolic Construction of America*. New York: Routledge, 1993. Bostdorff, Denise M. "George W. Bush's Post-September 11 Rhetoric of Covenant Renewal: Upholding the Faith of the Greatest Generation." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 89 (4): 293-319. Bottici, Chiara. "Imaginal Politics." *Thesis Eleven* 106(1): 56-72. Bottici, Chiara. "Myths of Europe: A Theoretical Approach." *Journal of Educational Media, Memory & Society* 1 (2): 9-33. Bottici, Chiara and Benoît Challand. "Rethinking Political Myth: The Clash of Civilizations as a Self Fulfilling Prophecy." *European Journal of Social Theory* 9 (3): 315-36. Cassirer, Ernst. *The Myth of the State*. Yale University Press, 1946. ISBN: 0-3000-0036-7. Edelman, Murray. "Language, Myths and Rhetoric." *Society* 35 (2): 131-39. Finchelstein, Federico. "Truth, Mythology, and the Fascist Unconscious." *Constellations* 23 (2): 223-35. Flood, Christopher G. *Political Myth*. New York: Routledge, 2002. ISBN: 978-0415936323. Friedman, Jonathan. "Myth, History, and Political Identity." *Cultural Anthropology* 7 (2): 194-210. Hobsbawm, Eric and Terrance Ranger. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1983. Ivie, Robert L. and Oscar Giner. "Hunting the Devil: Democracy's Rhetorical Impulse to War." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 37 (4): 580-98. Said, Edward. "Invention, Memory, and Place," in *Landscape and Power* (2nd ed.). Edited by W.J.T. Mitchell. The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Important Academic Dates

UTPB [Academic Calendar](#)

Graded Material

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Course Activity	Points	Percentage of Total Grade
Midterm Exam	100	20
Final Paper	100	50
Final Exam	100	30

Grading Scale

A 100-93; A 92-90; B+ 87-89; B 86-83; B 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C 72-70; D 69-60; F 59-0

University Policies

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.

ADA Officer for Students: Mrs. Chermae Peel

Address: Mesa Building 4242/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762

Voice Telephone: 432-552-3395

Email: ada@utpb.edu

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

Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy

The University of Texas Permian Basin (the University) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title

VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and Clery Act. Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation, and other conduct prohibited under this Policy will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University will promptly discipline any individuals or organizations within its control who violate this Policy. The University encourages you to promptly report incidents that could constitute violations of this Policy to the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy can be found [here](#).

You may report incidents of sexual misconduct to any University employee. They are obligated to report any incident to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator.

You may also contact:

- The UTPB Police Department at 432-552-2786
- The Title IX Coordinator at 432-552-2697 or TitleIXCoordinator@UTPB.edu.
- The Dean of Students at 432-552-2600
- Reports can also be made via the University Complaint Portal: [UTPB Complaint Management](#)

A **confidential reporting option is available**. Please contact UTPB's Counseling Center at 432-552-3365 or 432-552-2367 or stop by MB 1150.

Scholastic Dishonesty

“Scholastic Dishonesty” is any form of cheating or plagiarism that violates the Student Code of Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty or academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two [2] courses without the prior permission of the instructor, and providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. The Student Code of Conduct provides students fair notice of conduct considered unacceptable at The University of Texas Permian Basin and which may be the basis for disciplinary action. This policy provides the procedures to be following when student disciplinary action may need to be implemented and outlines the appeals process. The Student Code of Conduct is available online at:

<https://www.utpb.edu/life-at-utpb/student-services/dean-of-students/student-code-of-conduct>

Student Success at UTPB

UT Permian Basin offers numerous services to help you reach your academic goals. Available both in the Success Center on the 2nd Floor of the Mesa Building (<https://www.utpb.edu/academics/advising->

[and-support/student-success-center/index](#)), and online, UTPB Student Success offers the following services to all students:

- O.W .L. (Online Writing Lab) - Submit essays that need to be revised by one of our tutors to owl@utpb.edu.
- Tutoring – For both online and in person tutoring, please use EAB to create an appointment. (Utpb.campus.eab.com) Sign in using UTPB credentials.
- SI/PLTL Sessions - If available for your class, will be communicated to you by the mentor assigned to your class section and students can communicate to their SI or PL through Canvas.
- Peer Mentoring - Incoming freshmen can be paired with a peer mentor who will help you navigate your first year on campus.
- SSC Computer Lab - Come take advantage of the state-of-the-art computers available at the Student Success Center.

Please email success@utpb.edu for more information.

Student Support Services

For more information on academic, technical, and support services for UTPB students, please see the [Online Student Services](#).

Course Modalities

Both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) provide standard definitions for basic course types/modalities that have informed the following adopted course definitions.

Online Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs online/virtually (asynchronously) when students and faculty are not in the same place. A fully online course is one in which mandatory in-person meetings occur no more than 15% of the planned instructional time.

Remote Courses are ones in which students, while not required to physically come to campus to attend in-person classes, are required to “attend” virtually/remotely (synchronously) during scheduled days and times, with students expected to log in and participate in the lecture via video conferences.

Hybrid Courses are courses in which the majority (more than 50% but less than 85%) of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are not in the same place. This form of instruction offers a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning.

HyFlex Courses are those which, like hybrid courses, offer a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning. These courses, however, do not require student authentication since at least 50% of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place.

Face-to-Face/In-Person Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students are in the same place with an instructor(s).

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end of course evaluation survey provided by UTPB. During the last two weeks of class, there will be an announcement in Canvas, an email, and a button in your course navigation that will take you to any available surveys.

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.

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.

Course Policies

Attendance and Class Participation: This class will take place every Tuesday and Thursday. Regular and active participation is essential to your success in this course. **If you miss our classes, you will struggle to keep up** and may find it difficult to pass the course. However, I recognize that sometimes life has other plans, and missing a class may be unavoidable. In such instances, it is your responsibility to keep up with the assigned readings and get notes from a classmate. If you experience an emergency that requires you to miss more than three classes, you must contact me prior to your absence (if at all possible). If you miss a class, get notes from a classmate, and have questions about what you missed, you should set up a meeting with me during office hours. In addition to attending class, you must check Canvas, Teams, and your university email daily for any information posted by your instructor. I will make every effort to communicate with you directly and clearly, but you are ultimately responsible for all information posted to any of these formats.

Grading, Make-Up and Late Submission Policy: All the course grades will be posted to Canvas. If there is any dispute about a grade, you must wait at least 24 hours after I have returned the work to the class before contacting me. You must also contact me within one week of when I returned the work to the class; after one week, all grades are final. All course activities must be submitted by their due dates. **Submitting work late will result in a zero for the assignment unless advance arrangements have been made with your instructor.** If you are going to be absent on the day work is due, you must submit it in advance. I will work with you for any official school activity, but it is your responsibility to contact me personally at least one week prior to the event to make acceptable arrangements (a note from your coach/ supervisor is not sufficient; I must hear from you directly).

Required technical skills You can access Microsoft Office through my.utpb.edu. You can find Canvas by clicking "Course Login," and Teams by clicking "Office 365." The Office 365 link will navigate you to a page where you can find your university email (Outlook), Teams, and a few other really useful tools—your tuition is already paying for these features, so I recommend that you take advantage of them. Your instructor does not provide technical assistance during the course. If at any point you have technical questions and/or need help, you should contact the **Information Technology Services (ITS)** Helpdesk by calling 432-552-4357(HELP). You can also find information on their website, available here.

Course Incomplete: All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, and are exclusively at the discretion of the instructor. An incomplete is only granted if the student has completed at least 75% of the course with a grade of 'C' or better, provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted their teacher prior to the last scheduled class to request an extension. Being busy is never a reason for a course extension. If a grade of "Incomplete" is granted, the student will sign a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

Cheating/Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty: **Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts and/or sources, 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. This also includes 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 and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit. Using ChatGPT or similar AI software to generate written assignments is also plagiarism (don't let the robots do your work for you!). Failure to adequately cite sources and/or misattributing ideas to a source are also forms of plagiarism. If you engage in academic dishonesty, you may receive a substantial deduction on your grade, including receiving a zero on the assignment. Egregious cases of academic dishonesty may result in you failing the course and being referred to the Dean of Students for action pursuant to the UTPB student disciplinary process.

Course Schedule

Date	Assignments/Activities/Topics	Due Date

Class Schedule

SCHEDULE				
DATE	DAY	NO.	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	REQUIRED READING & ASSIGNMENTS*
				*Unless otherwise indicated, all reading and assignments should be completed before the start of class.
Module 1: What Is Political Myth?				
8/29	T	1	Course Introduction <u>Class Discussion:</u> The Ship of Theseus	None
8/31	R	2	Myth and Politics: A Traditional, Political Perspective <u>Watch:</u> <i>Scenes from Triumph of the Will</i>	Cassirer, selections from <i>The Myth of the State</i> ("The Function of Myth in Man's Social Life" and "The Technique of the Modern Political Myth") (on Canvas)

9/5	T	3	Sacred vs. Political Myths: Defining Our Terms	Flood, Ch.2 ("Sacred Myth/ Political Myth"); Ch. 3 ("Telling Myths"), pp.45-56; Ch. 4 ("Believing Myths"), pp.71-94
9/7	R	4	Myth as Narrative: Reading for Politics	Flood, Ch. 5 ("Questions of Form"), pp.115-125; Ch. 6 ("Ideological Meaning in History") pp.127-140
9/12	T	5	Myth as Process: Doing the "Work on Myth"	Bottici, Ch. 5 ("Approaching Myth") & Ch. 6 ("Naming the Unknown; Grounding Significance"); Intro. to Section III ("Political Myth")
Module 2: Myth, Ideology, and Identity				
9/14	R	6	The Image of Perfection: Ideology and the Defense of Myth	Flood, Ch.1 ("Political Ideology") Balthrop, "Culture, Myth, and Ideology as Public Argument" (Canvas)
9/19	T	7	Truth, Authority, and Political Control <i>In class: Selections from Triumph of the Will</i>	Bennett, "Myth, Ritual, and Political Control" (Canvas) Edelman, "Language, Myths, and Rhetoric" (Canvas) Finchelstein, "Truth, Mythology, and the Fascist Unconscious" (on Canvas) <i>Note: This is a heavy reading day, so start early.</i>
9/21	R	8	Significance and Experience	Bottici, Ch.9 ("Political Myth, Ideology and Utopia")
9/26	T	9	Identity and the Social Imaginary	Bottici, Ch.10 ("Myth, Historical Narrative and the Social Imaginary"), pp.220-226; Ch.11 ("Myth and Identity")

9/28	R	10	Myth, History, and Identity	Barthes, "Myth Today" (Canvas) Friedman, "History, Myth, and Political Identity" (Canvas) Bottici, Ch.10 ("Myth, Historical Narrative and the Social Imaginary"), pp. 203-220
10/3	T	11	Midterm Exam <i>The midterm exam will take place in class, and consist of multiple choice and short answer questions</i>	
Module 3: Memory, Ritual, and Group Identity				
10/5	R	12	What is Collective Memory? <i>Class discussion: Two memorials in West Texas</i>	Borges, "On Exactitude in Science" (Canvas) Said, "Invention, Memory and Place" (Canvas)
10/10	T	13	Images and Icons	Bottici, "Myths of Europe: A Theoretical Approach" (on Canvas) Bottici, "Imaginal Politics" (on Canvas)
10/12	R	14	Invented Traditions and the Allure of Antiquity	Hobsbawm, "Introduction: Inventing Traditions" (Canvas) Trevor-Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland" (Canvas)
10/17	T	15	Forging an Ethnos: Memory and National Identity	Zerubavel, Part 1 ("History, Collective memory, and Countermemory"), Ch.1-2

			Introduce research paper assignment	<i>Note: While this book is about Israel, much of what the author describes applies <u>equally</u> to myth and memory in the US; look for those connections</i>
10/18	R	16	A New Breed of Hero	Zerubavel, Ch. 3 ("The Battle of Tel Hai"); Ch. 6 ("The Arm, the Plow, and the Gun"); Ch.9 ("Tel Hai and the Meaning of Pioneering")
10/24	T	17	Romantic Defeats	Zerubavel, Ch.4 ("The Bar Kokhba Revolt"); Ch. 7 ("Bar Kokhba, the Bonfire, and the Lion"); Ch.10 ("The Bar Kokhba Revolt and the Meaning of Defeat")
10/26	R	18	Noble Sacrifices	Zerubavel, Ch.5 ("The Fall of Masada"); Ch.8 ("The Rock and the Vow"); Ch.11 ("Masada and the Meaning of Death")
10/31	T	19	Patterns of Commemoration	Zerubavel, Conclusion ("History, Memory, and Invented Tradition")
11/2	R	20	Ritual and Redemption: The American Jeremiad	Bercovitch, <i>The Rites of Assent</i>, Ch. 2 ("The Ritual of Consensus"), Ch. 3 ("The Ends of Puritan Rhetoric") — The readings can be found here as a library ebook; make sure to log into the library website before clicking the link <i>Note: Bercovitch can be dense, so start early on these readings</i>

11/7	T	21	Myth as Symbolic Displacement: Enemies and War	Ivie & Giner, "Hunting the Devil: Democracy's Rhetorical Impulse to War" (Canvas) Bottici & Challand, "Rethinking Political Myth: The Clash of Civilizations as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy" (Canvas) Final Paper Topic Proposals Due
Module 4: Monuments and Memorials				
11/9	R	22	Civil War Monuments as Political Myths	Brown, Intro.; Ch.1("The Emergence of the Soldier Monument")
11/14	T	23	Images of Perfection: The Soldier as Model Citizen	Brown, Ch.2 ("Models of Citizenship"); Ch.3 ("Models of Leadership")
11/16	R	24	Visions of Victory & the Militarization of Society	Brown Ch.4 ("Visions of Victory"); Ch.5 ("The Great War and Civil War Memory"); Epilogue
Course Conclusion: Rhetoric and Poetics				
11/21	T	25	Myth and Language	Kingsnorth, <i>The Wake</i> , "A note on language" and "A note on history" (appendices); pp. 1-84
11/23	R	Thanksgiving Break		
11/28	T	26	The End of the World	Kingsnorth, <i>The Wake</i> , pp. 87-217
11/30	R	27	Resistance	Kingsnorth, <i>The Wake</i> , pp. 221-82
12/5	T	28	Ritual	Kingsnorth, <i>The Wake</i> , pp. 282-344
12/7	R	29	Course Conclusion	Final Papers Due

12/12	T	Final Exam <i>The final exam will consist of a few essay questions covering key concepts from the class. You will have one full day to complete your exam. You may reference your notes and class readings when formulating your answers.</i>
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Sample Syllabus