

# ANTH 372: Interpretation of Myth and Narrative

Fall 2016

Prof. Tok Thompson

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Office hours: STO 100, Weds. 11:30-1:50, or by appointment.

Oral narratives from non-Western cultures; communications about deeply-held moral beliefs, psychological tensions, social problems, and the structure of the mind.

## Course Requirements

Students will select and compose an in-depth theoretical paper regarding a specific mythic narrative, motif, or theme. There will also be an initial short paper.

Readings should be done *before* the class discussion of them. Assignments are to be turned in on time. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and students are advised to follow the University's policy on academic integrity as articulated in the current edition of SCampus. Course attendance is mandatory: more than two unexcused absences result in an automatic reduction of 5% per additional absence.

## Grading:

Participation and In-Class Tests 10%

Short paper: 10%

Final paper: 30%

Presentation: 10%

Midterm: 10%

Final: 30% (Date of Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2-4 pm)

## Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability should register with Disability Services and Programs (in STU 301, phone 740-0776) and get a letter of verification for approved accommodations. Please show the letter to me at the beginning of the semester.

## Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in Crisis

In case of emergency, when travel to campus is difficult, if not impossible, USC executive leadership will announce a digital way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of the Blackboard LMS (Learning Management System), teleconferencing, and other technologies.

## BOOKLIST

1. Alan Dundes, ed. *Sacred Narrative, Readings in the Theory of Myth*. University of California, 1984. (SN in Reading List, below)
2. Robert A. Segal *Myth: A Very Short Introduction* (Very Short Introductions) (Paperback). (MAVSI in Reading List, below)
3. Gregory Schrepp and William Hansen eds. *Myth: A New Symposium*. Indiana University, 2002. (MANS in Reading List, below).

Film: *Whale Rider*

Week	Topic	Readings	Due/Exams
1	The Truth of Myth	<i>MANS</i> 1-15 (Schrempp) <i>I-3</i> (Dundes)	Mini-bio due Thursday
2	The World Is Not What You Think It Is	<i>SN</i> 41-52 (Honko) Article 1: Dundes	
3	Myths as Society	<i>MANS</i> 89-106 (Toelken) Article 2: Basso	
4	Studies of Myth: the early years.	<i>SN</i> 30-40 (De Vries) <i>MAVSI</i> 1-35	Tuesday: Guest lecture: Prof. Ihor Poshyvailo, Ukraine
5	Myths as Ritual	<i>MAVSI</i> 61-78 Article 3: Palmer, Article 4 Mulvaney	
6	Gods and Spirits	<i>MANS</i> 72-88 (Hill) Article 5: Foster	Paper 1 due Thursday
7	Typological studies	<i>SN</i> 152-165 (Hultkrantz); 166-181 (Booth)	
8	Structural & Functional studies	<i>SN</i> 295-314 (L-Strauss) <i>MAVSI</i> 113-135.	
9		Article 6: VazDaSilva	Midterm Thursday
10	Myths and Religion	<i>SN</i> 137-151 (Eliade); 256-269 (Segal); Article 7 Pyysiäinen	
11	People and Animals	Article 8 Cormier Article 9: Gottlieb Article 10 Biersack	Movie: <i>Whale Rider</i>
12	Myths and Things	<i>MANS</i> 203-224 (Glassie) Article 11 Steverlynck	
13	Myths and change	Article 12. (Mcarthur) Article 13 Sallnow	
14	Myths and popular culture	<i>MANS</i> 151-164 (Slater) Art 14 (Krzywinska)	Final paper due Tuesday
15	Future of myth?	<i>MANS</i> 240-248 (Nagy) <i>MAVSI</i> 137-142	

1. Alan Dundes. 1971. Folk Ideas as Units of Worldview. *The Journal of American Folklore* 84. 93-103
2. Keith H. Basso. 1988 "Speaking with Names": Language and Landscape among the Western Apache. *Cultural Anthropology* 3: 99-130
3. 1977. Kingsley Palmer. Myth, Ritual and Rock Art. *Archaeology & Physical Anthropology in Oceania* 12: 38-50.
4. Ken Mulvaney. 1999. Management Strategies and the Component of Indigenous Sacred Places: The Dreaming and Aboriginal Involvement in Site Management within Northern Territory National Parks, Australia. *The George Wright Forum* 16: 37-49
5. Michael Dylan Foster. 1998. The Metamorphosis of the Kappa: Transformation of Folklore to Folklorism in Japan. *Asian Folklore Studies* 57: 1-24

6. Francisco VazDaSilva. 2007. Folklore into Theory: Freud and Lévi-Strauss on Incest and Marriage *Journal of Folklore Research*, 44: 1-19
7. Ilkka Pyysiäinen. 1999. Holy Book: A Treasury of the Incomprehensible. The Invention of Writing and Religious Cognition *Numen* 46: 269-290
8. Loretta Cormier. 2006 A Preliminary Review of Neotropical Primates in the Subsistence and Symbolism of Indigenous Lowland South American Peoples. *Ecological and Environmental Anthropology* 2: 14-32.
9. Alma Gottlieb . Dog: Ally or Traitor? Mythology, Cosmology, and Society among the Beng of Ivory Coast. *American Ethnologist* 13 (1986) 477-488
10. Aletta Biersack 1999. The Mount Kare Python and His Gold: Totemism and Ecology in the Papua New Guinea Highlands *American Anthropologist*. 101: 68-87
11. Phillip H. McArthur. Ambivalent Fantasies: Local Prehistories and Global Dramas in the Marshall Islands. *Journal of Folklore Research* 45: 263-298,
12. Astrid Steverlynck. 2008. Amerindian Amazons: women, exchange, and the origins of society. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 14: 572-58
13. M. J. Sallnow. 1982. A Trinity of Christs: Cultic Processes in Andean Catholicism *American Ethnologist* 9. 730-749
14. Tanya Krzywinska. 2006. Blood Scythes, Festivals, Quests, and Backstories: World Creation and Rhetorics of Myth in World of Warcraft. *Games and Culture* 1: 383-396.