

ANTH 372: Interpretation of Myth and Narrative

Fall 2020

Prof. Tok Thompson

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Office hours: By zoom, Weds. 2:00-4:00, 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:

Short paper: 10%

Final paper: 20%

Presentation: 10%

Midterm: 10%

Participation: 20%

Final: 30% (Tuesday, Nov. 17, 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.

The Current Pandemic

We will begin (and probably complete) this semester on an online basis. We will primarily use blackboard and zoom. Attendance is required: if you have some difficulty attending zoom class meetings, please reach out to me regarding these. We will try to keep this class experience as much like a real classroom as possible. Please come prepared to discuss readings, and participate fully in discussions.

BOOKLIST

1. Alan Dundes, ed. *Sacred Narrative, Readings in the Theory of Myth*. University of California, 1984. (SN in Reading List, below)
2. Tok Thompson and Gregory Shrempff. *The Truth of Myth*. Oxford University Press. 2020. (ToM in Reading List, below).
3. Gregory Schrempff and William Hansen eds. *Myth: A New Symposium*. Indiana University, 2002.(MANS in Reading List, below).

Week	Topic	Readings	Due/Exams
1	The Truth of Myth	<i>MANS</i> 1-15 (Schrepp) <i>ToM</i> Intro and Prologue	Mini-bio due Thursday
2	The World Is Not What You Think It Is	<i>SN</i> 41-52 (Honko) Begin <i>ToM</i> Chap. 1	
3	Myths as Society	<i>MANS</i> 89-106 (Toelken) Article 1: Basso Finish <i>ToM</i> Chap. 1	
4	Studies of Myth: the early years.	<i>SN</i> 30-40 (De Vries) Begin <i>ToM</i> Chap. 2	
5	Myths as Ritual	Article 2: Macmillan & Hutchinson Article 3: Palmer	
6	Gods and Spirits	<i>MANS</i> 72-88 (Hill) Article 4: Foster Finish <i>ToM</i> Chap 2	Paper 1 due Thursday
7	Typological studies	<i>SN</i> 152-165 (Hultkrantz); 166-181 (Booth) Begin <i>ToM</i> Chap. 3	
8	Structural & Functional studies	<i>SN</i> 295-314 (L-Strauss) Article 5: VazDaSilva Finish <i>ToM</i> Chap. 3	Midterm Tuesday (Oct 5)
9	Myths and Religion	<i>SN</i> 137-151 (Eliade); 256-269 (Segal); Article 6 Pyysiäinen	
10	People, Animals, and Things	Article 7: Gottlieb Article 8 Biersack <i>MANS</i> 203-224 (Glassie) Begin <i>ToM</i> Chap 4	
11	Myths and change	Article 9 Mcarthur Article 10 Sallnow	
12	Myth, popular culture, and the Future	<i>MANS</i> 151-164 (Slater) Art 11 Krzywinska Finish <i>ToM</i> Chap 4.	
13	Future of myth?	<i>MANS</i> 240-248 (Nagy) <i>ToM</i> Conclusion.	Final paper due Tuesday (Nov. 10) by end of the day.
Final Exam: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2-4 pm			

Articles (available via Blackboard)

1. Keith H. Basso. 1988 "Speaking with Names": Language and Landscape among the
2. McMillan, A, and I. Hutchinson. 2002. When the Mountain Dwarfs Danced: Aboriginal Traditions of Paleoseismic Events along the Cascadia Subduction Zone of Western North America. *Ethnohistory* 49:41-68
3. 1977. Kingsley Palmer. Myth, Ritual and Rock Art. *Archaeology & Physical Anthropology in Oceania* 12: 38-50.
4. Michael Dylan Foster. 1998. The Metamorphosis of the Kappa: Transformation of Folklore to Folklorism in Japan. *Asian Folklore Studies* 57: 1-24
5. Francisco VazDaSilva. 2007. Folklore into Theory: Freud and Lévi-Strauss on Incest and Marriage *Journal of Folklore Research*,44: 1-19
6. Ilkka Pyysiäinen. 1999. Holy Book: A Treasury of the Incomprehensible. The Invention of Writing and Religious Cognition *Numen* 46: 269-290
7. Alma Gottlieb . Dog: Ally or Traitor? Mythology, Cosmology, and Society among the Beng of Ivory Coast. *American Ethnologist* 13 (1986) 477-488
8. Aletta Biersack 1999. The Mount Kare Python and His Gold: Totemism and Ecology in the Papua New Guinea Highlands *American Anthropologist*. 101: 68-87
9. . Phillip H. McArthur. Ambivalent Fantasies: Local Prehistories and Global Dramas in the Marshall Islands. *Journal of Folklore Research* 45: 263-298,
10. M. J. Sallnow. 1982. A Trinity of Christs: Cultic Processes in Andean Catholicism *American Ethnologist* 9. 730-749
11. 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.