



## ENG 323.01B: Mythology

(CRN: 80625)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

MWF 12:00 AM – 12:50 AM

Room 309, Ferguson Social Sciences Building

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Michael Gulden

**Office Location:** Waters Library, Student Success Center, Room 231AT

**Office Hours:** Mon 3:00-4:30, Wed 3:00-4:30, Thur 9:00-11:00

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5707

**University Email Address:** Michael.Gulden@etamu.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

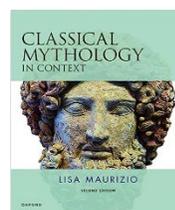
**Communication Response Time:** <24 hours, Monday-Friday (I generally don't check email on weekends)

### COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### Textbook(s) Required

1. Maurizio, Lisa. *Classical Mythology: In Context*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford UP, 2022.  
ISBN: 978-0190081836



#### Other Required Materials and Apps

1. Microsoft Word or its equivalent (please submit documents on D2L in .docx format)
2. Microsoft PowerPoint or its equivalent (please submit slidedecks on D2L in .pdf format)
3. Adobe Reader for PDF files (accessible here: <https://www.etamu.edu/adobe/>)
4. A computer is not required to access or complete work for this course, but regular access to the internet using a desktop/laptop/tablet will make both much easier.

*If obtaining any of these materials is not possible for you at the start of the semester, ask for help as soon as possible!*

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

**Daily Expectations / Bring to class everyday:**

Textbook (or eReader)

Dedicated ENG 323 Notebook (any size or shape) for in-class writing

Device from which you can read PDFs (tablet, phone, laptop, etc.)

Be on time, and let me know if you're going to be late

**Important Dates**

August 25: First class day

September 10: Last day to drop (100% refund)

October 30: Last day to drop (no refund)

December 5: Last Class Day

December 15: Final grades submitted

**Final Exam Date:** Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-10:00am

**Course Description****ENG 323 – Mythology** (Hours: 3)

A course that focuses on the myths of the Greeks and Romans but may also include myths from other cultures such as the Norse and American Indian. The course emphasizes the influence of myths in literature and psychology and on enlargement of vocabulary through mastery of words derived from mythology. Prerequisites: ENG 1302.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify key elements of myths and their origins;
2. examine the geographical, social, cultural, and historical contexts of myths;
3. interpret myths for their literary, religious, or cultural importance;
4. apply a variety of theories to interpret myths; and
5. compare myths across cultures.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS****Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students are expected to be able to use a computer for accessing content, completing and submitting assignments (e.g., using Word and PowerPoint), and engaging in online sources.

East Texas A&M University uses [D2L Brightspace](#) (D2L) as its Course Management System (CMS).

### **Instructional Methods**

This course relies on class lecture and discussion, PowerPoints, out-of-class research, and in-depth, close reading of texts. There will also be handouts made available to enhance instruction.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

The work for this course is carefully sequenced and grows out of ongoing classwork as well as class participation/discussion. Staying on top of the assignments, doing them seriously, and being prepared for class is crucial for student success in this course. Students should come prepared with all relevant texts and on time every day. On occasion, there may be in-class activities or assigned homework meant to help students engage with the learning in the class. Students should expect to spend **about 3-4 hours outside of class per week** for thinking, reading, writing, and studying for this course. Additional hours will be needed for completing essays and projects.

### **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Evaluation breakdown of assignments is as follows:

1. 15 % – Reading Quizzes and other On-Demand In-Class Work (TBA pts.)
2. 25 % – Oral Presentations (2 x 100 pts. possible)
3. 15 % – Comparative Analysis (100 pts. possible)
4. 15 % – Critical Analysis (100 pts. possible)
5. 15 % – Mid-term Exam (100 pts. possible)
6. 15 % – Final Exam/Project (TBA pts.)

Note that grades are weighted by category, not point totals.

**Plagiarism:**

- With direct quotes, any missing open or close quotes = Plagiarism.
- With paraphrases or summaries, any missing citations = Plagiarism.
- Missing in-text citations = Plagiarism.
- Using sources, quoting them, but not including them in a bibliography = Plagiarism.
- Intentionally misrepresenting a source's ideas by saying it says something it does not say = Academic Dishonesty.
- Including sources in a bibliography without using them in the essay is either plagiarism (you used a source but did not cite it) or academic dishonesty (you are attempting to obfuscate the fact that you have not used the required sources).

*Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism.*

**NOTE:** Students who do not learn to control MLA document design and documentation will find it difficult to earn high grades. Part of academic writing is being able to control information and source material. Writers **must** learn to use source material ethically.

**Generative AI** (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.): You will learn quickly that I (and many many other educators and academics) view generative AI as an **obstacle** to the learning goals of our course, not an aid. While I respect that people (myself included) can find many legitimate uses for GenAI tools, the companies that own them have wildly overstated the effectiveness and “intelligence” of these tools, and they do not have your interest as readers and scholars at heart.

In this class, writing is thinking, and I do not accept the notion that GenAI effectively improves thinking.

**Grading Timetable:** The instructor will make every effort possible to return grades and comments on essays *within one (1) week*, but the instructor also reserves the right to require more time if needed and will notify students if this is the case.

### Required Coursework

In order to meet the course objectives, students will have the following opportunities:

● **Reading Quizzes and In-Class Activities:** To ensure a shared understanding and active reading of the textbook and myths, each day will begin with a short quiz that will broadly ask questions about the reading. Students will also on occasion be asked to complete in-class activities or homework that will help them engage in the readings and materials. These quizzes and activities are “on-demand” and cannot be made-up. (SLOs addressed: 1, 2, 3).

Purpose:

● **Oral Presentations:** Students will prepare and present **two (2) oral presentations** to the class that covers an assigned section of a chapter. Oral presentation 1 will be worth 10%; oral

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

presentation 2 will be worth 15%. Students are expected to improve upon oral presentation 1 by receiving critique and implementing revisions for oral presentation 2. Students should prepare a PowerPoint or equivalent visual aid as part of their oral presentation. Detailed directions will be provided in class. (SLOs addressed: 1, 3, 5)

- **Comparative Analysis:** Students will compose **one (1) comparative analysis** that examines two (2) myths from different cultures, using analysis tools learned in class. This is a medium length essay ( $\approx$  4-5 pages;  $\approx$  1200-1500 words). Detailed parameters will be provided in class. One rewrite can be submitted for reassessment. (SLOs addressed: 3, 5)

Purpose:

- **Critical Analysis:** Students will compose **one (1) critical analysis** that examines a myth using a specific theory. This is a medium length essay ( $\approx$  4-5 pages;  $\approx$  1200-1500 words). Detailed parameters will be provided in class. One rewrite can be submitted for reassessment. (SLOs addressed: 2, 3, 5)

- **Exams:** There will be a mid-term exam, covering all assigned readings up to mid-term. There will be a final exam or project that will reflect the work we have done in the class more broadly; students will help the professor design the final. Exams will primarily consist of writing responses to written or visual prompts (SLOs addressed: 1, 2, 3)

**Mid-term Exam: Monday, October 9, 12pm**  
and  
**Final Exam: Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am - 10:00am**

Mid-term and Final Exams will be administered in Ferguson Social Sciences, Room 309

### **Note on Written Coursework**

- **No “recycled” essays**, essays written in other classes, in other sections of this course, or at other institutions or venues are permitted *unless and until* the instructor(s) provide(s) written consent, using official university email or letterhead.

- **Format:** Out-of-class work will be electronically submitted on D2L. Written work and essays should be submitted in .docx format, while slides and slidedecks should be submitted in .pdf format. Students will use the most common discipline-specific document design and citation format for English, which is MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

- **Late Papers:** Deadlines are important: they ensure progress, and help deliver feedback more easily and effectively. You will also struggle to complete rewrites. If you are struggling with meeting a deadline for a paper, please reach out as soon as you can so we can make a plan together on completing it.

**RECOMMENDATION:** While it is not required, students are strongly encouraged to use the Writing Center to receive extra attention and help on writing assignments. The Writing Center is a wonderful resource at TAMUC and is located in 103 David A. Talbot Hall. The Writing Center also has virtual writing sessions. For further information, please visit the [Writing Center's Website](#).

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by ETAMU have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Visit D2L Brightspace webpages for the [LMS requirements](#) and for [LMS Browser Support](#). Users will need to prepare for the use of Zoom by verifying [Zoom System Requirements](#).

### ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

### COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

#### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or visit [D2L Brightspace's support page](#).

#### Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is a course expectation that you check your LeoMail email address daily. This is the prescribed communication method by the University. There may be times when I need to contact you with important information, and email is often the fastest method to do so. You can expect a

response to your email within one business day of its receipt- even if it is just acknowledgement that I received it.

All students are encouraged to contact the instructor for any and all reasons whatsoever if they believe an event or concern will impact their performance on the course. The more I am kept in the loop with you and your environment, the better I can assist you when needed. Beyond face-to-face classroom interactions, the best way to get in touch with me is via email and/or office hours.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Attendance and Tardiness**

Students are expected to attend classes on-time and in their entirety and to complete all assignments. If there are extreme circumstances—or a sudden, serious situation—that prevents a student from arriving to class on time or remaining in the class for its duration, please communicate that fact with the professor.

Because this course is blended, we will not regularly meet on Friday afternoons.

**Tardiness:** Tardiness means you will miss the reading quiz and an introduction to the class. Arrive to class on time.

**Absence:** Though I do not grade attendance in this class, in-class work is essential for doing well on quizzes, papers and other assessments. More importantly, you will lose out on opportunities to actually learn sometime and grow as a reader and writer. Come to class, and communicate if you cannot.

#### **Classroom Etiquette**

These policies are in place to encourage discussion, community, and active learning.

1. Arrive on time
2. If you are going to be late, email the professor and enter the classroom without disruption
3. Cellphones, headphones/earbuds, and other “dinging” devices should be stowed away while not in use.

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their schoolwork. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

**Plagiarism:** [Plagiarism is the appropriation of another's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. This includes ChatGPT and other generative Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) technology \(See AI use policy below\). Students who are found to plagiarize will](#)

[be subject to Academic Dishonesty procedures including a zero on any plagiarized assignments up to suspension or expulsion from the University.](#)

**AI use policy:** East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is not allowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they use an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus](#) document and/or consult with your event organizer.

Web URL:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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**The Lion Food Pantry:** Now located in 103 Halladay Student Services Building, the [Lion Food Pantry](#) supports students who struggle with food security. Without good food, it is difficult to sleep or to keep up with your academics or engage in social activities. This service also provides personal care items. If you need help, then reach out to them: [LionPantry@tamuc.edu](mailto:LionPantry@tamuc.edu)! They are open Wednesdays, 11:00-4:00 PM.

**Course Content Disclaimer:** Students may find that readings, class discussions, or assignments address issues that are unfamiliar, controversial, or uncomfortable. They do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the faculty, department, college, or institution. The course activities are meant to engage critical thinking and intellectual inquiry and honor the concept of free

speech. Civil disagreement is fine. Bullying, name-calling, yelling, or other acts of aggression will not be tolerated. The policy of “Student Conduct” applies to the examination of course content as well as to participant interaction in, and out of, the classroom.

**Final Note:** As students enter the university, they are also entering a research community where faculty and students are studying not only the world outside of the university, but also the teaching and learning that occurs inside of the university. On occasion, other faculty members may observe classes in order to provide feedback to the faculty member about the course activities, the goal, of which, is to improve individual teaching and the design of this course so that they work as effectively as possible in preparing all students for academic and professional success. Therefore, any writing that a student passes in this semester may be read by other faculty members here at ETAMU but without names so that the student, as the writer, remains anonymous. **NOTE: Students should keep in mind that any subject matter they disclose about past, present, or future abuse, assault, harassment, or mortal threats may be reported to the appropriate authorities.** For more information, please see the [University's Privacy Policy](#) and [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

## Fall 2025 COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Note:** The following is our tentative schedule of activities and due dates for this course. Any changes that are made will be given well in advance in class. *The assigned readings for each class period should be done before coming to class.*

### Week 1

- 8/25 M: Introduction
- 8/27 W: The UN-Textbook (MythFolklore.blogspot.com)
- 8/29 F: Hesiod's Theogony (pdf selections)

### Week 2

- 9/1 M: **No Class—Labor Day**
- 9/3 W: Hesiod's Theogony (pdf selections)
- 9/5 F: Chapter 1 - Classical Myths and Contemporary Questions

### Week 3

- 9/8 M: Review of Chapter 1
- 9/9 W: Chapter 2.3 - Creation Stories of the Levant
- 9/12 F: Free Reading

### Week 4

- 9/15 M: Chapter 3.1- Hesiod's Works and Days (pgs. 118-130)
- 9/17 W: Chapter 3.1 - Zeus and Hera (pgs. 104-118)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**9/19 F:** Chapter 3.2 - Universal Questions Shape Myth

**Week 5**

**9/22 M:** Chapter 3.3 - Levant Flood Stories

**9/24 W:** Chapter 4.1 - Demeter and Hades

**9/26 F:** Work Day on Comparative Analysis + Free Reading

**9/28 Su:** **Comparative Analysis Draft DUE by 11:59 PM**

**Week 6**

**9/29 M:** Chapter 4.2 - Myths Reinforce Social Norms

**10/1 W:** Chapter 5.1 - Aphrodite, Hephaestus and Ares

**10/3 F:** Midterm prep + Free Reading

**Week 7**

**10/6 M:** MID-TERM EXAM (Chapters 1-4)

**10/8 W:** Chapter 5.2 - Myths Challenge Social Norms

**10/10 F:** Chapter 5.3 - Mesopotamia and Ishtar + Free Reading

**Week 8**

**10/13 M:** **No Class - Work day to edit Comparative Analysis**

**10/15 W:** **No Class - Work day to edit Comparative Analysis**

**Comparative Analysis Final Draft DUE by 11:59 PM**

**10/17 F:** Chapter 6.1 - Athena and Poseidon (especially *Eumenides*)

**Week 9**

**10/20 M:** Chapter 6.2 - The Mind Structures Myth in Oppositions

**10/22 W:** Chapter 6.3 - Egypt and Neith + Free Reading

**10/24 F:** Chapter 7.1 - Hermes and Hestia

**Week 10**

**10/27 M:** Chapter 7.2 - The Mind Structures Myths in Archetypes

**10/29 W:** Chapter 7.3 - Egypt and Thoth

**10/31 F:** Free Reading + Archetypes

**Week 11**

**11/3 M:** Chapter 8.1 - Artemis and Apollo

**11/5 W:** Chapter 8.2 - Myth, Ritual, and Initiations

**11/7 F:** Chapter 8.3 - Antolia, Rome, and Cybele

**Week 12**

- 11/10 M:** Chapter 9.1 - Dionysus  
**11/12 W:** Chapter 9.2 - Myth, Initiations, and Inversions  
**11/14 F:** Chapter 11.1 - Heroes at the Ends of the Earth

**Week 13**

- 11/17 M:** Chapter 12.1 - The Homecoming Husband Hero  
**11/19 W:** Chapter 12.2 - The Quest Hero and the Monomyth  
**11/21 F:** Chapter 13.1 - Heroines at Home

**Week 14**

- 11/24 M:** Chapter 13.2 - A Paradigm for Heroines  
**11/26 W:** No Class—Thanksgiving!  
**11/28 F:** No Class—Thanksgiving!  
**11/30 Su:** Critical Analysis Draft DUE by 11:59 PM (see assignment sheet for details)

**Week 15**

- 12/1 M:** Final Exam Prep and Critical Analysis Workshop  
**12/3 W:** Chapter 14 - Heroines in an Unjust World (642-651, 691-697)  
**Final Product of Critical Analysis DUE by 11:59 PM**  
**12/5 F:** Chapter 15 - Heroines and Death (710-716, 750-767)  
 Prepare to explore questions on p. 752 in class.

**Final Exam: Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am - 10:00am**