

ENGL 3403

Dr. Joshua Phillips

MWF 11:30am-12:45pm

Mythological Backgrounds in Literature

This class is designed to explore some of the seminal myths of the Western tradition—from Athena to Zeus—that are so crucial to English literature up to the present day. We will trace how those myths change, fragment, and re-emerge in modern literature and popular culture. Considering some important theories of myth, we will examine these works within the cultural contexts that gave them life and significance while tracking their evolution. Finally, we will also look at some non-Western mythic traditions and their appearance in recent literature, particularly young adult literature.

Readings may include some of the following: Homer, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; Virgil, *Aeneid*; Derek Wolcott, *Omeros*; Neil Gaiman, *American Gods*; Madeline Miller, *Circe*; Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians*; Gene Luen Yang, *American Born Chinese*; Tomi Adeyemi, *Children of Blood and Bone*