IS 306: Myth and Music
Winter 2022/2023
Fully Online

Professors:

Douglas Simms
Telephone: 618-650-2177
E-mail: dsimms@siue.edu
Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literature
Office: Peck Hall 2326
Zoom Office Hours: TBA

Andrew Greenwood
Telephone: 618-650-2026
E-mail: agreenw@siue.edu
Department of Music
Office: Dunham Hall 0155
Zoom Office Hours: TBA

12/19/22-1/8/23

Materials:
All readings, music, video links etc. posted electronically via Blackboard

Course Description:
Mythology – stories passed from generation to generation because they were culturally meaningful – can be found all over the world. This course explores myth and its musical manifestations primarily through case studies of the myths of medieval Scandinavia and of the Vikings, and their appropriation by composer Richard Wagner and others. Musical adaptations of these mythological texts have had a profound impact upon the circulation of media worldwide (e.g. in film and popular culture).

The musical aspect of this course involves first an introduction to the basic listening fundamentals of music (melody, rhythm, tone color, dynamics, etc.). Once students have acquired some of these basic fundamentals, we will use them in order to enhance our listening experiences of various musical settings of mythological texts. The idea that cultural myth could be conveyed universally through music was developed through Johann Gottfried Herder's invention of the concept of *Volkslied* ("folksong"). Our primary examples consist of the music of Wagner, settings of Scottish/Herderian folk songs, and other musical examples of myth found in popular culture (e.g. Eurovision Song Contest, *Star Wars*, and Looney Tunes). Of particular interest will be excerpts taken from the operas of Wagner, particularly his "Ring Cycle" (comprising *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*). The Wagnerian theory of *Leitmotif* central to these operas is still vital to much music in film today.

The mythological aspect of this course comprises an introduction to the myths and mythological figures of early Germanic Europe, turning its attention thereafter to the collections of myths and legends left behind by the descendants of the Vikings. Although a brutal scourge of Europe between 800-1100 C.E., the Vikings possess a rich and complex literature which was only set into writing generations later by medieval Scandinavians. In addition to selections from the *Poetic Edda* and Snorri Sturluson's *Prose Edda*, we will read *The Saga of the Völsungs*, in which the dragon-slaying hero rises to glory and tragedy through a complex love-story involving a king, his sister, and a Valkyrie. We can see echoes of Scandinavian myth and Wagnerian themes in the works of silent movie maker, Fritz Lang, and the novels of J.R.R. Tolkien, and their film

adaptations in recent years by Peter Jackson, and continuing influence on such modern works as George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*. We will also include a number of approaches to these myths and topic from newer perspectives, such as through the lens of gender studies. Moreover, we will also look at ways in which appropriations of these myths by (neo)nationalists and right-wing radicals are used and abused in the present.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course it is expected that students are not only familiar with the characters and plots of the texts and/or music covered, but equally as important, students should become acquainted with the medieval and modern worlds and how they continue to interact, rather than viewing them as separate from one another. Students should also acquire a sense of how music plays an important role in conveying myth in our world.

Also, by the end of the course, students are expected to:
1) Be able to compare and contrast texts of similar type
2) Be able to formulate and express opinions regarding the textual similarities
3) Be able to address challenging notions such as "heroic," "medieval," and "modern"
4) Be able to appreciate and understand trans-semiotic notions such as the *Leitmotiv*
5) Be able to conduct research using a variety of primary and secondary source materials in learning and writing about literature
6) Be able to see how the study of literature from a variety of cultures and eras can enrich their lives in the here-and-now
7) Be able to use some basic fundamentals to describe, identify, and interpret music
8) Be able to use these fundamentals of music in listening contexts in and outside of class (e.g. concerts, digital media, etc.)
9) Be able to relate musical listening experiences (using musical fundamentals) to mythological themes and ideas
10) Be able to construct arguments about music & myth in written work (e.g. final essay)

Communication with Professors:
As this course has two professors, it is imperative that when communicating with one to copy an e-mail to the other so that every person is informed. If you find video-conferencing useful, we are both trained in the use of Zoom, video-conferencing software supported by SIUE. Each of us will hold virtual office hours during the week. Outside of these office hours, and specific appointments you make, e-mail is the preferred method of contact. Please do not hesitate in contacting us with any questions or concerns about the course.

Student Responsibilities:
It is expected that students will take responsibility for completing material in a timely fashion as per the syllabus. Please contact the professors should a problem or question arise. Please consult the following link, as it explains expectations for students of online courses at SIUE and what is needed for success in an online course:
http://www.siue.edu/its/idlt/learning/success.shtml

Final Grade:

Grades are calculated according to a 100 pt. scale (A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, etc…). The individual components of the final grade are weighted thusly:

Discussion Board	30%
Weekly Quizzes (3)	30%
Final Essay	30%
Participation	10%

Quizzes:
Three quizzes will be given in total: one every week during the course in order to check students' progress. Each quiz will be available via Blackboard, beginning the Wednesday of each week, to be completed by 11:59 p.m. the following Sunday. Quizzes will contain approximately 30 questions and you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The third quiz will be comprehensive, where 2/3 of the questions will be from material from week 3, and 1/3 will come from material during the first two weeks. **Note: Once you begin the quiz you may not stop or restart. Because of this, please make sure you have proper internet connectivity, as we are unable to accommodate technical difficulties on your end: <u>Quiz re-takes are not permitted</u>.**

Final Essay:
The final will be due on Friday January 6. The project topic will be provided during the first week of the course.

Note: Failure to submit the final will result in a grade of **F** for the final.

Discussion Board:
Students are required to engage in discussions with each other and the professors via Blackboard's Discussion Board in week of the course. Professors will interact with students to a great extent via the Discussion Board, so please make full use of this feature, it's a great way to learn and ask questions. Items we discuss here will be very relevant to the final project.

During each week each student is required minimally to make **six postings**, divided equally between Prof. Simms' and Prof. Greenwood's material. Each student should post:
- A question for discussion. This question needs to be an open-ended question about the material under examination for the week posted as a separate thread. **No yes/no questions and no questions with specific answers will count towards this requirement**.
- Two (2) responses to other students' questions.
- Note:
    - Off-topic postings, or postings without any depth or effort will not count.
    - Postings which have questions more-or-less the same as a previous posting's question will not count. Please read all existing posts before adding yours. Note SIUE policies concerning plagiarism below.
- To recap, **each student needs to post 1 question and 2 responses for Prof. Simms' material and 1 question and 2 responses for Prof. Greenwood's material per week**
- **Questions are due no later than <u>12noon each Wednesday</u>**

- **Responses are due no later than <u>12noon each Friday</u>**
- The "week" for Discussions ends each Friday at 12noon (Please pay attention to the time…a posting made at 12:02 p.m. Friday does not count!) – Although it might seem persnickety, there has to be a deadline at some point.

Netiquette (Adapted from http://www.education.com/reference/article/netiquette-rules-behavior-internet/):

- **Avoid sarcasm.** People who don't know you may misinterpret its meaning.
- **Respect others' privacy.** Do not quote or forward personal email without the original author's permission.
- **Acknowledge and return messages promptly.**
- **Be concise.** Keep messages concise—about one screen, as a rule of thumb.
- **Use appropriate language:**
  o Avoid coarse, rough, or rude language.
  o Observe good grammar and spelling.
- **Use appropriate emoticons (emotion icons) to help convey meaning.** Use "smiley's" or punctuation such as :-) to convey emotions. See website list of emoticons at http://netlingo.com/smiley.cfm and http://www.robelle.com/smugbook/smiley.html.
- **Use only appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning.** No all-caps shouting.

Discussion Board Posting Rubric
Discussion board posts will be graded according to the following rubric:

Grade	Questions	Responses
A	Thoughtful and thought-provoking, generates strong discussions, open-ended	Thoughtful response, generates additional replies
B	Thoughtful question, generates moderate discussion	Response that thoughtfully considers question in its reply
C	Variation of previously-posted question	Variation of previous response or "ditto"-type response
D	Yes-No question or asks for a specific answer rather than an open-ended question to further discussions	Responds without much thought, very little thought put into reply or single-word replies
F	No question, off-topic posting	No response, off-topic reply

Participation:
Although IS 306 is an asynchronous, on-line course, we feel that more learning happens when there is a human connection (thus the discussion board posts). To that end, we also want to make sure that each student participate as much as possible. To this end, every week there will be a

participation grade assigned according to the following rubric:

Grade	Characteristics
A	Complete viewing of video lectures, significant additional engagement beyond minimum on discussion board and full use of extra video lectures
B	Complete viewing of video lectures, significant engagement beyond minimum on discussion board or full use of extra video lectures
C	Complete viewing of video lectures, minimal required participation on discussion boards, little to no use of extra video lectures
D	Incomplete viewing of video lectures, minimal or partial posting on discussion boards, no use of extra video lectures
F	No participation, no viewing of lectures, posting on discussion board, no use of extra lectures

SIUE Policies:
Students enrolling in the University assume responsibility for conduct compatible with the learning environment of the University. Students are expected to be familiar with Student Conduct and Student Grievances: Rights and Responsibility. This policy describes the University's expectations for student conduct, sanctions imposed for violations of the standards, and procedures which students may follow in filing grievances.

The University gives high priority to matters of academic ethics and abhors all types of cheating, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own and may consist of copying, paraphrasing, or otherwise using written or oral work of another without proper acknowledgment of the source or presenting oral or written material prepared by another as one's own.

Instructors may impose sanctions for academic cheating in accordance with Student Conduct and Student Grievances: Rights and Responsibilities. In the case of plagiarism, the minimum sanction of the first instance of plagiarism is disciplinary probation; for the second instance of plagiarism, the minimum sanction is separation from the University for one term; and for a third instance of plagiarism, the minimum sanction is permanent separation from the University.

Students who wish to understand matters relative to academic ethics and plagiarism should consult their advisers or instructors.

Copies of the policy are available in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, the Service Center, and in the Office of the Dean, School of Dental Medicine.

Upon registration, students accept responsibility for attending all class sessions and completing course work. Attendance at all sessions of a class is expected. It is especially important to attend the first meeting of a class. Failure to attend the first session could result in your place being assigned to another student. It is your responsibility to ascertain the policies of instructors with regard to absence from class, and to make arrangements satisfactory to instructors with regard to incomplete course work. Although absence from a class does not constitute dropping a class or withdrawing from the University, faculty have the authority to request removal of undergraduate students who fail to meet attendance requirements, as published in their syllabus. This results in a grade of WR (Withdrawal by Registrar) being recorded. Faculty who choose not to drop for failure to attend class will assign an appropriate grade at the end of the term. Under no circumstances will non-attendance in any course or courses be considered a valid reason to permit dropping the course from a student's schedule after the second week. Dropping a class that you do not plan to take or complete is your responsibility. You must submit your request to drop classes within the established deadlines to avoid punitive grades.

The University recognizes plagiarism as a serious academic offense. Plagiarism, the act of representing the work of another as one's own, may take two forms. It may consist of copying, paraphrasing or otherwise using the written or oral work of another without acknowledging the source, or it may consist of presenting oral or written course work prepared by another as one's own.

Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost. In addition, any graduate student who has been found to have committed an act of plagiarism may be dropped from his or her graduate degree program by his or her department. A student who is reported a second time shall be suspended from the University for a period of not less than one term. Should a student who has been suspended for plagiarism be readmitted and be again found guilty of the offense, he/she shall be permanently expelled from the University.

This policy statement shall appear in the University catalogs and course announcements, shall be called to the attention of advisers, shall be explained during the program of new student orientation, and shall be published in the Alestle at least once during the beginning of each fall term.

The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is charged with administrative responsibility for handling complaints, allegations, or grievances against students concerning plagiarism, according to the Student Academic Code (Policy 3C2).

COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Related to Classroom Instruction

Health and Safety

The measures outlined below are <u>required</u> and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy*, as well as the University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

The full text of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* can be found here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/Covid.shtml

Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces

Under current University policy, SIUE will only require masking in campus healthcare settings. See, https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/safety-guidelines-support/index.shtml.

Individual faculty of record may determine that masking will be required in their classrooms and are asked to communicate accordingly with students. Face masks may be required in other campus sites following guidance from governing regulatory agencies.

Students who forget to wear a face covering when masking is required will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE's *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face coverings when masking is required may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC).

Students who refuse to wear a face covering when masking is required will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available.

If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and myaccess@siue.edu).

General Health Measures

Students and employees are expected to review the siue.edu/coronavirus website (https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/) to better understand prevention strategies and safety expectations.
- Students and employees are expected to maintain healthy hygiene practices.
- Students and employees are expected to follow COVID-related guidelines and directions.

- Students and employees are expected to conduct a daily health self-assessment and isolate themselves if COVID-related symptoms are present. COVID-related symptoms include:
  - o Fever (100.4 degrees or above) or chills
  - o Cough
  - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - o Fatigue
  - o Muscle or body aches
  - o Headache
  - o New loss of taste or smell
  - o Sore throat
  - o Congestion or runny nose
  - o Nausea or vomiting
  - o Diarrhea

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml.

Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml.

Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include alterations to distancing requirements, course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online, hybrid, or hy-flex, mask wearing, in-course activities, etc). These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course while preserving health and safety. In these cases, students may be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version. If the course schedule or modifications significantly alter expectations, a new syllabus will be issued.

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned videos—please contact Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) as soon as possible. In order to

properly determine reasonable accommodations, students must register with ACCESS either online at siue.edu/access or in person in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726.

If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

Diversity and Inclusion
SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Hub https://www.siue.edu/csdi is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

Academic and Other Student Services
As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- Lovejoy Library Resources
- Academic Success Sessions
- Tutoring Resource Center
- The Writing Center
- Academic Advising
- Financial Aid
- Campus Events
- Counseling Services

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to us and let us know.

Cougar Care
Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siue.edu or by calling 618-650-2842.

Student Success Coaches
Student success coaches work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize Starfish to connect with a coach as soon as

possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.

SIUE General Academic Policies:
A full statement of policies can be found at the following website:
https://www.siue.edu/policies/toc.shtml

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Copies of the policies are available in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, the Service Center, and in the Office of the Dean, School of Dental Medicine.

Technology requirements
At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:
- Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
- Updated Internet browsers (Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox). See Blackboard's Browser Checker page to see if your browser and operating system are compatible with Blackboard.
- DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.
- Media player such as, QuickTime or Windows Media Player.
- Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader (free)
- Java plugin (free)
- Any other specialized software or basic software (e.g., Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop). SIUE students can download MS Office (including Word) at no charge. This includes Office Teams for video-conferencing and text messaging.

Zoom video-conferencing software sponsored by SIUE.

[See over for Schedule of Readings and Topics]

	Simms	Greenwood
Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Listening* **All required readings and listenings are to found** **in the folder for the corresponding week in Blackboard** ***students will be notified of any subsequent changes**		

Week 1
 12.19.2022 to
 12.23.2022
	• Introduction to course
	 • Germanic – what is that?
	 • Myth – what is that?
	 • Days of the Week
	 • Overview of Germanic Myth
	 • Reading – Jan Puuhvel "Germanic Mythology"
	 • Reading – Gardell, Introduction to "Gods of the Blood"
	 • Reading – Dorothy Kim, "White Supremacists Have Weaponized an Imaginary Viking Past. It's Time to Reclaim the Real History"
	
	 Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed
	 Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri
	 QUIZ 1 due 11.59pm Sun
		• Introduction to course
		 • Fundamentals of Music
		 • Music, Myth, & Nation:
		    o Herder, World & Folk Music
		    o Eurovision Song Contest
		 • Reading – Kerman/Tomlinson, *Listen*, 7th edition, Bedford St. Martins [excerpt]
		 • Listening – examples corresponding to above as posted as links
		 • Reading – Tragaki, "The Monsters' Dream"
		 • Listening:
		    o Schubert, *The Erlking*
		    o Lordi, "Hard Rock Hallelujah"
		    o Other selections from Eurovision
		
		 Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed
		 Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri
		 QUIZ 1 due 11.59pm Sun

Week 2
 12.26.2022 to
 12.30.2022
	• Prose Edda Reading – Pages to be announced
	 • Poetic Edda
	 • Reading – Haymes, *Wagner's Ring in 1848* [excerpt]
	 • Reading – Selections available under the folder for that week
	 • Podcast – *Vikings are Gay* (link in Blackboard)
		• Wagner, Myth, and *Leitmotif*
		 • Reading – Ross, *Wagnerism* [excerpt]
		 • Reading – Donington, *Wagner's Ring and its Symbols* [excerpt]
		 • Reading – Taruskin, "Form and Content"
		 • Reading – "Leitmotif"
		 • Documentary: "Wagner's Jews"
		 • Listening – Wagner's Operas:
		    o *Das Rheingold* (opening)
		    o *Die Walküre* (selection)
		    o *Siegfried* (selection)
		    o *Götterdämmerung* (end)

	Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri QUIZ 2 due 11.59pm Sun	Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri QUIZ 2 due 11.59pm Sun
Week 3 12.31.2022 1.6.2023	• *Volsunga saga*, Reading on Blackboard– Only the text, no need to read the "Introduction" • Lang's *Nibelungen* Viewing – Links to these two films are available under the folder and are from YouTube **Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed** **Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri** **QUIZ 3 due 11.59pm Sun** **FINAL DUE 1/6/22**	• Myth in Film and Musical Media • Reading – Bribitzer-Stull, *From Wagner to Hollywood Film Music* [excerpt] • Reading – Buhler, "*Star Wars*, Music, and Myth" • Listening – "What's Opera, Doc?"; • *Star Wars* [excerpts] • Video selections from popular musical culture using Leitmotif **Discussion Question (1) due 12noon Wed** **Discussion Responses (2) due 12noon Fri** **QUIZ 3 due 11.59pm Sun** **FINAL DUE 1/6/22**

Worried?:

If at any point during the semester you have concerns, please feel free to make use of our office hours, or contact either of us via e-mail (dsimms@siue.edu or agreenw@siue.edu), or phone (DS: 618-650-2177 or AG: 618-650-2026, although e-mail is best). Should you think you might like to need the university's counseling services, they can be reached at: 618-650-2179. The sooner a problem is noticed, the sooner it can be resolved, whereas leaving things to the last minute can multiply difficulties. Above all, we hope that this course is an enjoyable and enlightening one.