

## Comparative & World Literature 250: Fables & Tales

Syllabus \* Fall 2004 \* San Francisco State University

Section 1 \* MW 10:10 – 11:00 \* HSS 130 \* Code: 12692

Prereq: Grade of C or better in Eng 114 or equivalent \* G.E.: Segment 2 Humanities & Creative Arts

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Calkins

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**Office:** HUM 527

**Office Hours:** MW 1:00 – 2:00 and by appt.

**Office Phone Number:** (415) 338-3077

**Dept. Office:** HUM 377

**Dept. Phone Number:** (415) 338-2068

### Course Description

The aim of this course is to read, discuss and analyze folktales and fables from a variety of traditions, times, and places; to understand the role of folktale narrative in human culture; to explore and compare narrative devices and central themes within the tales and fables. In particular, we will be reading tales that can be called "beast epics" or "beast fables," allegorical stories in which animals are the main characters. We will also talk about the role and context of these stories, and what makes them distinctive, significant, and interesting, in order to become aware of our own interpretive and cultural values and how these values inform our understanding and reception of these fables and tales. Indeed, fables and tales are not solely the province of ancient, primitive, or remote societies: they remain a staple feature within contemporary western societies because of their unique modes of expression. We will conclude the course by considering the efficacy of the beast tale in influencing and/or reflecting modern society.

### Required Books & Materials

Bookstore:

*Aesop's Fables.* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002.

*Monkey: A Journey to the West.* Boston: Shambhala, 1992.

*Pancratra.* Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997

*Renard the Fox.* Berkeley: U of California P, 1983.

Harris, Joel Chandler. *Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings.* Great Britain: Penguin, 1982.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm.* New York: Signet, 1996.

Electronic Reserve:

Chaucer: "The Nun's Priest's Tale"

TBD

My SFSU Web page:

Reading Group Worksheets

Miscellaneous handouts

### Course Requirements & Grade Distribution

**Grading:** All grades will be recorded as percentages until the final grade converts to a letter grade equivalent: A+ = 97, A = 93, A- = 90, B+ = 87, B = 83, B- = 80, C+ = 79, C = 77, C- = 70, D+ = 67, D = 63, D- = 60, F = 0. I do not round up.

QUIZZES (4): 30% - drop lowest grade

AESOP PROJECT: 10% - ungraded

TALE ANALYSIS: 15%

FINAL EXAM: 30% - comprehensive  
DISCUSSION GROUP WORK: 15%

## Course Policies

**Second Day Drop:** If you do not attend class on the second day of class I will automatically drop you from the class. If for some reason you cannot attend class on the second day, you must tell me by the end of the first class session.

**Attendance:** While I do not grade you on attendance, because you will be doing group work on a regular basis, missing class will of consequence adversely affect your grade for Reading Group Work.

**Lateness:** Arriving late disrupts class. Class begins according to the time on the clock on the classroom wall. If you will regularly be unable to get from one part of campus to class within the allotted time, please see me before the third week of classes.

**Late Work:** All work must be handed in by the end of class on the day it is due; if you submit a paper via e-mail, it must be time-stamped no later than the time that class ends. I do not accept papers turned into the Department Office, HUM 125, nor slipped under my office door. You are allowed one late essay with the use of the Late Essay Coupon; I do not accept late papers otherwise. In the unfortunate circumstance that you submit more than one late paper, you will receive 57 percentage points for completing the assignment.

**Make-up work following an absence:** Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes and assignment details.

**Use of outside assistance/Plagiarism zero-tolerance policy:** Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignments found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action (from "College of Humanities Plagiarism Resources," <http://www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/plagiarism.html>).

**Cell phones, food & drink:** Please make sure your cell phone or pager is turned off before you enter class, and please do not bring any food or drink into the classroom. Bottled water is permitted, however.

**Access:** I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. You are invited to communicate with me at the outset of the course or at your discretion about any accommodations that will improve your experience of or access to the course. You can also contact the Disability Resource Center at 338-2472 (Voice/Tdd).

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

**P** = Pancatantra **M** = Monkey **R** = Renard the Fox **UR** = Uncle Remus **AF** = Animal Farm

Week	Date	in class	Homework Assigned
<b>1</b>			
	8/25	Intro to Course	
	8/27		

2	8/30		P pp. 5-17
	9/1		P pp. 18-30
	9/3	Reading Groups P pp. 5-30	P pp. 30-60
3	9/6	<b>Labor Day</b>	
	9/8	Lecture	P pp. 60-70
	9/10	Reading Groups P pp. 30-70	P pp. 71-81
4	9/13	Lecture	P pp. 81-98
	9/15	Lecture	P pp. 98-112
	9/17	Reading Groups P pp. 71-112	P pp. 112-126
5	9/20	Lecture	P pp. 126-145
	9/22	Lecture	P pp. 146-159
	9/24	Reading Groups P pp. 112-159	
6	9/27	<b>Quiz #1, Lecture</b>	M pp. 1-26
	9/29	Lecture	M pp. 27-52
	10/1	Reading Groups M pp. 1-52	M pp. 53-84
7	10/4	Lecture	M pp. 84-105
	10/6	Lecture	M pp. 105-127
	10/8	Reading Groups M pp. 53-127	M pp. 128-157
8	10/11	Lecture	M pp. 158-188
	10/13	Lecture	M pp. 189-209
	10/15	Reading Groups M pp. 128-209	
9	10/18	<b>Quiz #2, Lecture</b>	R pp. 25-50
	10/20	Lecture	R pp. 51-75
	10/22	Reading Groups R pp. 25-75	R pp. 76-100
10	10/25	Lecture	R pp. 101-125
	10/27	Lecture	R pp. 126-154
	10/29	Reading Groups R pp. 76-154	
11	11/1	<b>Quiz #3, Lecture</b>	UR pp. 39-47
	11/3	Lecture	UR pp. 55-70
	11/5	Reading Groups UR pp. 39-70	UR pp. 70-84
12	11/8	Lecture	UR pp. 84-98
	11/10	Lecture	UR pp. 98-113
	11/12	Reading Groups UR pp. 70-113	UR pp. 113-126
13	11/15	<b>Aesop Project due, Lecture</b>	UR pp. 126-139
	11/17	Lecture	UR pp. 139-155
	11/19	Reading Groups UR pp. 113-155	
14	11/22	<b>Quiz # 4, Lecture</b>	AF pp. 25-53
	11/24	Lecture	AF pp. 54-83
	11/26	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
15	11/29	Reading Groups AF pp. 25-83	AF pp. 84-113
	12/1	Lecture	AF pp. 113-139
	12/3	Reading Groups AF pp. 84-139	
16	12/6	Lecture	
	12/8	Lecture	
	12/10	Pre-final	
	12/17 Friday	<b>Final 8:00 – 10:30</b>	