THE FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY OF THE MIDDLE EAST (01:013:322)

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Charles G. Häberl
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Time: MW 3:20-4:40pm
Place: Lucy Stone Hall, Room B-116, Livingston Campus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The course introduces the students to the study of folklore with specific reference to the folk tales of the Middle East. While the bulk of the folk tales examined will consist of those collected during the course of the 20th century, the course will also present these tales in a diachronic light with reference to the sacred texts of each community and comparable myths, legends, tales, and fables from the ancient world.

The folklore examined include creation myths, beast fables, proverbs, ghost stories, fairy tales, and Middle Eastern reflexes of such well known tales as the Faust legend, Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty.

Grades will be determined by participation (10%), the mid-term (20%), a final paper (30%), and the final exam (40%). At the beginning of each class, students will be expected to recant one of the tales covered in the reading for the class, without reference to notes. Students should develop their paper topic in consultation with the instructor.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
We will address:

- The various schools of interpretation, such as the Myth and Ritual, the Formalist, the Functionalist, and the Psychoanalytical. You will learn to analyze folklore with an eye for origins, typological or formal parallels, and potential functions within the societies in which it is current.
- Theoretical questions of orality v. textuality, folk vs. elite traditions, vernacular vs. official histories, and other aspects of the composition, transmission, and consumption of folklore, not only within specific cultures but also cross-culturally.

PREREQUISITES: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Hanauer, J.E. and Marmaduke Pickthall. 1907. *Folklore of the Holy Land:* Moslem, Christian And Jewish. London: Duckworth & Co.

Drower, Ethel S. *Drower's Folk-Tales of Iraq.* Edited by Jorunn J. Buckley. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1-2: APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF FOLKLORE

Wednesday, 1/19: INTRODUCTION

Monday, 1/24: Persistence of Myth

- ANET, "The Taking of Joppa," 22-23
- 1001 Nights, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves"
- "Simeliberg" (Grimm)
- ANET, "The Story of Two Brothers," 24-25
- Agafonov, "Bismilla" pts. I and II

Wednesday, 1/26: No Class

Monday, 1/31: Function vs. Form

- Bascom, "The Forms of Folklore: Folk Narratives"
- Reynolds, "Scholarship and Approaches"

WEEK 3-4: THE SEARCH FOR ORIGINS

Wednesday, 2/2: Creation Myths

- ANET, "The Creation Epic," 60-71
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "A Learned Muslim's Ideas on Cosmogony" (3-8)
- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "The Creation, Etc." (251-58)

Monday, 2/7: Adam and Lilith

- Hanauer and Pickthall, "Our Father Adam" (9-12); A Magic Charm (322-26)
- Patai, "Lilith." *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 77, No. 306. (Oct. - Dec., 1964), pp. 295-314.

Wednesday, 2/9: The Flood

- ANET, "Atrahasis" (104-06)
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "Noah and Og" (13-17)
- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "The Flood" (258-59)

Monday, 2/14: Abraham

- Hanauer and Pickthall, 22-36
- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "Of Abraham and Yurba," 265-69.

WEEK 5-6: HEROES AND VILLAINS

Wednesday, 2/16: Gilgamesh

- ANET, "Epic of Gilgamesh" (72-99; 503-507)

Monday, 2/21: Moses and Pharaoh

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "Another Version of the Red Sea Story" (282-88)
- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Moses and the Two Men" (141)
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "The Last Hours of Aaron and Moses" (39-44)

Wednesday, 2/23: Solomon, son of David

- Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 8.2.5
- Talmud, "Solomon and Asmodeus"
- Conybeare, "The Testament of Solomon"
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "David and Solomon" (44-51)
- Clapp, "The Queen of Sheba"

Monday, 2/28: The Alexander Romance

- Stoneman, "The Unclean Nations and the End of Time"
- Qur'ān, al-Kahf (18): 83-98

Wednesday, 3/2: The Green Man and The Seven Sleepers

- Qur'ān, al-Kahf (18): 65-82
- Talmud, "Trust in God"
- Parnell, the Hermit
- Qur'ān, al-Kahf (18): 9-26
- Bellamy, "Al-Raqīm or al-Ruqūd? A Note on Sūrah 18:9"

WEEK 8: CLASS CANCELLED

Monday, 3/7: NO CLASS

Wednesday, 3/9: NO CLASS

WEEK 9: SPRING RECESS

Monday, 3/14: NO CLASS (SPRING RECESS)

Wednesday, 3/16: NO CLASS (SPRING RECESS)

WEEK 10: PROVERBS

Monday, 3/21: Aḥiqar

- Bascom, "Four Functions of Folklore." The Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 67, No. 266 (Oct. - Dec.,
- 1954), pp. 333-349
- ANET, "The Instruction of the Vizier Ptah-Hotep," 412-14.
- ANET, "The Words of Ahiqar," 427-30.

Wednesday, 3/23: Harun al-Rashid; Joha / Nasrettin Hoca / Mullah Nasreddin

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Two stories of Abu Nowas, A story of the Khalifa Harun ar Rashid, Another Story of the Khalifa" (85-91); "Harun al-Rashid and the Poor Man's Daughter" (339-45)
- Reynolds, "Joha"
- "Joha and the Door"
- Häberl, "Neo-Mandaic Jokes"
- Hanauer and Pickthall, 83-89.

WEEK 11-12: FAIRY TALES

Monday, 3/28: Wrongfully Accused

- Hanauer and Pickthall, "Ijbeyneh" (214-17)
- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Dungara Khsheybān" (14-19); "Bitter Orange" (98-102); "Gumeyra" (142-45);
- "Wudayya" (183-86); "The Girl and the Rat" (439-440); "The Story of Budur" (479-484)

Thursday, 3/30: Snow White, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Hājir" (114-19), "The Poor Girl and her Cow" (187-93)
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "Thaljiyyeh" (228-33), "Zerendac" (221-228)

Monday, 4/4: The Jānn and the Afārīt

- Hanauer and Pickthall, "The Underground Folk" (188-214)
- Drower, Folk-Tales, "The Crystal Ship" (20-27); "Shamshūm al-Jabbār" (30-36); "The Thorn Seller" (45-57); "The Blind Sultan" (58-74); "The Tricks of Jānn" (91-93); "Shammar Stories" (104-13); "The Woman of the Well" (120-26); "The Three Dervishes and the Wonderful Lamp" (145-57); "The Cotton Carder and Kasilūn" (224-30); "The Coppersmith and the Jinni" (381); "The Story of the Fisherman and the Sultan" (387-413); "Hasan al-Basri" (421-28)

Wednesday, 4/6: Demons and Ogres

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Husain an Nim-Nim" (36-40); "Melek Muhammad and the Ogre" (210-18); "The Boy and the Deyus" (275-86); "The Arabi Boy" (345-49)
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "Uhdeydan" (217-21); Drower, Folk-Tales, "Uhdeydān, Uch eybān, and Unkheylān" (205-09)

WEEKS 12-13: BEAST FABLES

Monday, 4/11: Beast Fables

- Irwin, "The Arabic Beast Fable." Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes, Vol. 55 (1992), pp. 36-50.
- Hanauer and Pickthall, "About Animals" (261-86)
- Drower, Folk-Tales, "The Goat and the Old Woman, Three Little Mice, and The Sparrow and His Wife" (7-13); "The Blackbeetle who Wished to get Married" (40-44)

Wednesday, 4/13: Abu Khumayis (the Lion)

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "It is not the Lion's Fur Coat!" (80-84); "It was Enough to Bewilder the Lion!" (93-95); "The Honest Man" (263-66); "The Generous Man and the Niggardly Man" (267-74)

Monday, 4/18: The Jackal

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "The Stork and the Jackal" (80-82); "The Story of the Jackal Who Turned Hajji" (415-19); "The Lion and the Jackal" (465-66)

Wednesday, 4/20: Puss in Boots (The Master Cat); The Fish that Laughed / Nanda and the Laughing Fish

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "The Cat" (246-52); "The Black Cat" (471-78); "The Appearance of the White Cat"
- (443-48), "The Fish that Laughed" (253-63)

WEEK 14: SUPERNATURAL BEINGS

Monday, 4/25: Ghosts

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "The Hauntings" (289-91), "The Stone-Throwing" (345-349), "The Kaftar (349), "How Evil Spirits Abuse the Dead, Etc." (358-363), "Men who Have Returned from Death, Etc." (363-366), "Of the Power to See Spirits" (366-369)

Wednesday, 4/27: The Walled-Up Wife

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, 289-91.
- Petermann, Reisen im Orient
- Shai, "A Kurdish Jewish Variant of the Ballad of The Bridge of Arta." AJS Review, Vol. 1 (1976), pp. 303-310.
- Häberl, "The Demon and the Damsel: An Iraqi Folktale in Neo-Mandaic."

WEEK 15: CONCLUSION

Monday, 5/2: Review

SOME ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

Nebukhadnezzar

- Hanauer and Pickthall, 79-81
- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "Nebukhadnezzar's Daughter" (282-88)

King David

- Lindsay, "'Alī Ibn 'Asākir as a Preserver of "Qiṣaṣ al-Anbiyā'": The Case of David b. Jesse." Studia Islamica, No. 82 (1995), pp. 45-82

Adam Abulfaraj

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, 292-300.

The Faust Legend

- Brown, "Marlow, Faustus, and Simon Magus," PMLA, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Mar., 1939), pp. 82-121
- Hart, Review of Zahn, The American Journal of Philology, Vol. 3, No. 12 (1882), pp. 470-473.
- Robinson, "The Complaynt off Sanct Cipriane, the Grett Nigromancer." The Review of English Studies, New Series, Vol. 27, No. 107 (Aug., 1976), pp. 257-65

Trickster Heroines

- Drower, Folk-Tales, "Jarāda" (74-79); "Hassan the Thief" (127-40); "The Merchant's Daughter" (162-82); "Er Rūm" (219-23); "The Loves of Ahmad Sultan and Tar Aswar" (351-76); "The Sardines" (377-380)

The Simurgh

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "The Simurgh: The True History of Rustam and his Son" (369-85), "The Simurgh and Hirmiz Shah" (393-40).

The Mountain of the Medians

- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "The Mandaean Nation" (259-64); "Concerning the Mountain of the Maddai and How the Turks Came to Take It, How the Mandai and their Ganzibra Left the Mountain for a Better Country" (309-325)
- Petermann, Reisen im Orient

Ascension Narratives and Apocalyptic Heroes

- Naqsh-e Rajab Inscription (MacKenzie)
- The Sasanian Arda Wiraz Nāmag
- Hadith on the Isra and Mi raj
- Drower, Mandaeans of Iraq and Iran, "How Dana Nuk Visited the Seven Heavens" (300-308)

Sacred Trees

- Wilensky-Lanford, "Tree of Knowledge, Qurna, Iraq"
- Dafni, "On the Typology and Worship Status of Sacred Trees"