

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.76-182

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5

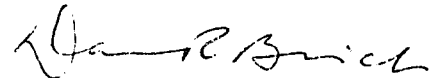
Date 15th December, 1976

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 14, 1976 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION

That Senate approve, and recommend approval by the Board of Governors, the new course proposals for G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5, as set forth in S.76-182.

NOTE - These two courses are approved for offering once only. Any subsequent offering would require re-submission of a proposal including evaluation of the courses as taught in 77-3 and 78-1.



Daniel R. Birch

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 76-52

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. H. M. Evans,

From J. Blanchet, Secretary,

Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Date December 6/76.

Subject G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5,  
Myths, Fictions, Histories - making  
sence of experience. I and II.  
(I.S.C. 76-4).

Attached are the above-noted course proposals; would you please place them on the agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for consideration.

Attachments.

J. Blanchet

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To Dr. D.R. Birch, Chairman

SCUS

Subject Overlap Consideration - G.S.  
402-5 and G.S. 403-5

From Sheila Roberts, Secretary

Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee

Date December 6, 1976

Further to my memo of October 28, 1976 the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee at its meeting of November 4, 1976 amended the motion regarding G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5 as follows:

*"That on the condition that courses G.S. 402-5 and G.S. 403-5 are both offered on a once only basis there is no objection to the overlap with courses in the Faculty of Arts."*



S. Roberts

cc. H.M. Evans, Registrar  
J. Blanchet, I.D.S.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Abbreviation Code: G.S. Course Number: 402 Credit Hours: 5 Vector: ~~3-2-0~~  
0-5-0

Title of Course: MYTHS, FICTIONS, HISTORIES - making sense of experience. I

**Calendar Description of Course:**

The main distinguishing characteristics of myths, fictions, and histories as modes of making sense of experience; how they differ, what they have in common, where they compete; a brief history of the study of myths, fictions, and histories.

Nature of Course Seminar, with some lectures.

**Prerequisites (or special instructions):**

Graduate or advanced undergraduate standing. *Permission of instructor.*

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once only

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1977-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? K. Egan, Faculty of Education

3. Objectives of the Course a) To introduce students to some of the distinctions and commonalities among three major ways of organizing, and so making sense of, human events; to introduce them to some methods of inquiry presently used in trying to make sense of the ways people have made, and make, sense of the experience of being human in the world. (Appendix I is an outline of the course.) b) the course is experimental and will be taught only once. c) It will no doubt overlap with courses in philosophy of history, theories of fictions, mythologies, epistemology; but it should

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only) not do so to any great extent

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

- Faculty None
- Staff None
- Library None
- Audio Visual None
- Space None
- Equipment None

5. Approval

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Dec 76

14 Dec 76

R. Brown

R. Brown

Department Chairman

Dean

Chairman, SCUS

Appendix I

Outline of Course

Title of Course: MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES - making sense of experience. I

The course will be organized around a set of readings, with occasional lectures. Below is an outline of the readings and lecture topics:

1. Myths

Reading: Bronislaw Malinowski, "Myth in primitive psychology"

Lecture: A brief survey of inquiries into myth. (Classical Greeks' reactions to the myths inherited from their ancestors; the effects of Christian dogma on myth-study; Vico's, The New Science; Enlightenment reactions to myth; 19th and early 20th century studies - Herder, Muller, Tylor, Lang, Fraser.)

Reading: Ernst Cassirer, Language and Myth

Lecture: 20th century studies of myth. (Indicating the influence of anthropology on other areas of inquiry and expression, beginning with influences on Fraser, then Fraser's influence on students of literature; the Cambridge "classical anthropologists", Harrison, Cornford, Murray; the study of language and "mind" and their influence on the study of myth; leading to an introduction to Levi-Strauss' brand of structuralism.)

Readings: to introduce Structuralism -

Edmund Leach: "Genesis as Myth"

Levi-Strauss: "The Structural Study of Myth"

Lecture: Levi-Strauss and the structural study of myth. (Relevant principles of Saussurian linguistics; use by Jacobson; development by Levi-Strauss to the study of Kinship, and then to the study of myth.)

Readings: Levi-Strauss: "Overture" to The Raw and the Cooked.

2. Fictions

Reading: Aristotle, The Poetics

Lecture: Myth and mythos. (A playful attempt to indicate areas of similarity between a Levi-Straussian view of the structure of a corpus of myths and the Aristotelian view of a plot.)

Readings: Frank Kermode, The Sense of an Ending.

Warner Berthoff, "Fiction, History, Myth"

Northrop Frye, "New Directions from Old"

Lecture: Structuralism in literature. (Indicating the variety of

attempts to draw ideas and tools from linguistics; Propp and Russian formalists; French structuralism, extending Levi-Straussian analyses to various kinds of literary texts; Roland Barthes and semiology.)

Reading: Roland Barthes: "Myth today"

### 3. Histories:

Readings: Philip Rhav, "The Myth and the Powerhouse"

Hayden V. White, "The Burden of History"

Nietzsche, The Use and Abuse of History

Lecture: Progress in historiography. (The development of increasingly sophisticated methods of narrating history and the progressive overthrow of disabling presupposition in doing it. [as in the attached article "Progress in historiography"])

Readings: Carl G. Hempel, "Explanation in Science and History"

A. Donagan, "The Popper-Hempel Theory reconsidered."

Lecture: Covering-Law and Son-of-Covering-Law. (The move from Hempel's "covering law" model, to an interest in following a narrative or story as a model of how historiography explains events; the "poetics" of historiography.)

Readings: W.D. Gallie, "The Uses and Abuses of History," from Philosophy and the Historical Understanding

M.I. Finley: "Myth, Memory, and History"

Lecture: Stories, facts, events and plots. (A summary of how some of the units that are common to myths, fictions and histories seem to operate differently in the different modes, and what elements or functions they have in common; implications for the status of the kind of sense each makes of experience.)

In outline, then, we will try to develop an understanding of some of the ways that myths, fictions and histories "encode" experience. We will focus first on distinguishing the different modes as clearly as possible in the time available, and then consider elements that they have in common. As we deal with each mode we will be making constant references back and forth to and from the others.

(Students who intend to take MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES II, will be encouraged to read Herodotus' Histories over the Christmas break.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Below are just a few of the most directly useful works not mentioned above, that might be recommended in order to follow up particular interests:

Myths:

- ed. Henry A. Murray, Myth and Mythmaking  
ed. Thomas Sebeok, Myth - a symposium  
ed. John Middleton, Myth and Cosmos  
Mircea Eliade, Myth and Reality  
Henry Frankfort, Before Philosophy  
Geoffrey Kirk, Myth  
C. Levi-Strauss, The Savage Mind  
Structural Anthropology  
Mythologies  
ed. E. Leach, The Structural Study of Myth and Totemism  
ed. P. Maranda, Mythology  
R. Chase, Quest for Myth

Fictions:

- Northrop Frye, The Anatomy of Criticism  
Erich Auerbach, Mimesis  
Roland Barthes, Mythologies  
Elements of Semiology  
T. Todorov, Grammaire du Decameron  
V. Propp, Morphology of the Folktale  
Gerald Prince, A Grammar of Stories  
Scholes and Kellogg, The Nature of Narrative  
Wayne Booth, The Rhetoric of Fiction  
ed. R.S. Crane, Critics and Criticism  
R. Scholes, Structuralism in Literature  
ed. Lemon and Reis, Russian Formalist Criticism  
ed. S. Chatman, Approaches to Poetics  
ed. J. Miller, Myth and Method

Histories:

- ed. Stanley Diamond, Culture and History  
A. Dante, Analytical Philosophy of History  
W. Dray, Philosophy of History

J.H. Plumb, The Death of the Past  
 ed. H. Meyerhoff, The Philosophy of History in Our Time  
 Isaiah Berlin, The Hedgehog and the Fox  
 R.G. Collingwood, The Idea of History  
 Arnaldo Momigliano, Studies in Historiography  
 Hayden V. White, Metahistory  
 ed. Fritz Stern, The Varieties of History

Myth and Literature: Myth and History: Literature and History:

Lilian Feder, Ancient Myth in Modern Poetry  
 Jean Seznec, The Survival of the Pagan Gods  
 Jesse Weston, From Ritual to Romance  
 ed. J. Vickery, Myth and Literature  
 Giambattista Vico, The New Science  
 W. Berthoff, Fictions and Events  
 J. Buckley, The Triumph of Time  
 E. R. Dodds, The Greeks and the Irrational  
 F. Neitzsche, The Birth of Tragedy  
 Ernst Cassirer, An Essay on Man  
 S. Langer, Mind  
 S. Pepper, World Hypotheses  
 ed. I.M. Lewis, History and Social Anthropology  
 E.H. Grombrich, Art and Illusion  
 Mircea Eliade, Cosmos and History  
 D.L. Page, History and the Homeric Iliad  
 G.S. Kirk, Homer and the Epic  
 Lionel Pearson, Early Ionian Historians  
 A.W. Gomme, The Greek Attitude to History and Poetry



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Abbreviation Code: G.S. Course Number: 403 Credit Hours: 5 Vector: 0-3-0  
~~3-2-0~~

Title of Course: MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES - making sense of experience, II

Calendar Description of Course: What counts as an "event" in myths, fictions, and histories? How are events determined in each mode, what do they have in common, how do they differ? How are events "plotted" in myths, fictions, and histories? How does the emplotment of events in the different modes determine the kind of sense made from experience? What kinds of gross units are myths, fictions and histories - i.e. how do we know we have reached the end of a myth, fiction, or history.

Nature of Course Seminar, with some lectures

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Myths, Fictions, and Histories - making sense of experience, I . *Permission of instructor.*

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved:

None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once only

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1978-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible?

K. Egan, Faculty of Education

3. Objectives of the Course

a) To clarify for students the degree to which different modes of inquiry and expression that use human events as their raw material are empirically based and the degree to which the meaning composed from events or experience is determined by the mind's formal requirements for sense-making; to clarify the differences and commonalities and competitions in the claims made to "truth" in the three modes. (Appendix I is an outline of the Course) b) The course is experimental and will be taught only once. c) It will possibly overlap with courses in philosophy of history,

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required

Faculty None

Staff None

Library None

Audio Visual None

Space None

Equipment None

theories of fictions, mythologie epistemology; but it should not do so to any great extent.

5. Approval

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Dec 76

14 Dec '76

RC Brown

R.R. Birch

Department Chairman

Dean

Chairman, SCUS

Appendix I

Outline of Course

Title of Course: MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES - making sense of experience. II

The course will be organized around a set of readings, with occasional lectures. Below is an outline of the readings and lecture topics.

1. From myth to history

The first section will focus on the shift from mythical to historical modes of representing the past in ancient Greece.

Readings: Peter Winch; "Understanding a Primitive Society"

Steven Lukes, "Some Problems about Rationality"

K. Egan, "Mythical and historical reference to the past."

M.I. Finley, "Desperately Foreign"

Sections from: Bruno Snell, The Discovery of the Mind

HDF Kitto, Poiesis

J. Finlay, Four Stages of Greek Thought

Lectures: Mythic survivals in Herodotus and Thucydides. [as in the articles "Thucydides, Tragedian", and "Herodotus and romantic historiography"]

From Homer to Thucydides. (Describing, with fairly lengthy quotations, what changes are evident in the narratives of Homer's account of the cosmogony and theogony, and Hesiod's, logographers, and proto-physicists'; Cornford's thesis in From Religion to Philosophy, and the flaws in that; what happens to the plot of myths in logographic writings, and Hippocrates and Thucydides.)

The purpose of this section is to clarify the distinction between myths and histories, and to get a sharper sense of what a plot is and how it works in a few ancient narratives.

2. Facts, Events and Plots:

In this section we will deal in greater detail with the questions, What is a fact? What is an Event? and What is a Plot?

Readings: Carl L. Becker, "What are historical facts?"

Norman Friedman, "Forms of the Plot"

Boris Tomashevsky, "Thematics"

Roland Barthes, "An Introduction the Structural Analysis of Narrative"

Alan Dundes, "Trends in Content Analysis"

Tzvetan Toderov, "Structuralism and Literature"

R.S. Crane, "The Concept of Plot and the Plot of "Tom Jones"

Harry Levin, "Some meanings of 'myth'"

Lectures: What is a plot? [as in the attached article, "What is a plot?] Fictions, Histories, and Reality. (The attempts to move closer to representing "reality", and the effects on the forms of fictions and histories; Auerbach's thesis; Gombrich's thesis; Frye's thesis; Idealist and pragmatist views of history; the historiography in Finnegans Wake.)

Readings: Warner Berthoff, "Literature and the measure of 'Reality'"  
 William H. Gass, "Philosophy and the Form of Fiction"  
 "In terms of the toenail: fiction and the figures of life"

3. The Uninvited Guest - the mind

Two lectures on: Points of Connection. (A playful attempt at outlining connections among the diverse inquiries we have looked at; Structuralism and psychoanalysis, with reference to Lacan via Geoffrey Mehlman's Structural Study of Autobiography - Proust, Leiris, Satre, and Levi-Strauss; attempts to draw on linguistics, with reference to Gerald Prince's, Grammar of Stories; various attempts to draw on linguistics and Chomskian inferences about the mind to enlighten the study of myths, fictions, and histories; the universality of stories.)

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 W. Berthoff, Fictions and Events  
 J. Buckley, The Triumph of Time  
 E. R. Dodds, The Greeks and the Irrational  
 F. Neitzsche, The Birth of Tragedy  
 Ernst Cassirer, An Essay on Man  
 S. Langer, Mind  
 S. Pepper, World Hypotheses  
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 E.H. Grombrich, Art and Illusion  
 Mircea Eliade, Cosmos and History  
 D.L. Page, History and the Homeric Iliad  
 G.S. Kirk, Homer and the Epic  
 Lionel Pearson, Early Ionian Historians  
 A.W. Gomme, The Greek Attitude to History and Poetry

MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES - making sense of experience. I

MYTHS, FICTIONS, AND HISTORIES - making sense of experience. II

Preliminary note:

These experimental courses were conceived as a single course running from September 1977 to April 1978. Because there is no mechanism for organizing a single course over two semesters I have submitted the proposal as for two courses, the first of which is prerequisite to the second. I have also arranged things so that the first course will form a coherent unit by itself.