

Myth, Magic, and the Heroic Life:
Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*

Instructor: G. Kuchar
Email: kucharg@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-721-7248



Course Description:

Before *Game of Thrones*, before *The Lord of the Rings*, before *Harry Potter* and *The Narnia Chronicles*, before *Stranger Things*, there was Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. A hugely influential and richly imaginative work of chivalric romance, Spenser's major poem lies at the very foundation of the Anglo-American literary tradition alongside Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton. To study Spenser is to study the emergence of the English renaissance literary and cultural imagination. In this course, we will examine Edmund Spenser's major poem *The Faerie Queene* in its literary, mythological, religious, socio-cultural, and critical contexts. In studying Spenser's epic, students will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Classical and Christian mythographic traditions while exploring a variety of critical approaches, including myth

criticism (analytical psychology), historical contextualization, genre theory, and more.

Proposed Assignments:

1. Research Essay #1 (1,000-1,200 words). 15%.
2. Reading Journal and/or Creative Project. 20%. (All Satisfactory Journals-Projects receive 100%)
3. Final Research Essay: (1,500-2,000 words). 30%
4. Final Exam. Essay Question Given in Advance. 25%
5. Participation. 10%.

Readings:

The Faerie Queene:

Books 1 and 3 and selections from 2 and 5.