

## **Intro to the Course & Establishing Dominant Fantasies of the West**

Establishing Dominant Fantasies of the West

Myths and Metaphors

Introduction: On Developing Lexicons, Survival Strategies, Mapping the Syllabus, and Setting Goals

Welcome & Introduction of Teaching Team

Sherry Rowley

Course Business Announcements

- For shoppers who cannot access the Moodle site: Course Website with Syllabus and Assignments can be found at [http://www.yorku.ca/srowley/index\\_fantasy.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/srowley/index_fantasy.htm)
- Course Kit in York Lanes Book Store

On Humanities

What is a Foundations Course?

About This Course (Detail 1)

Here, we understand fantasy not as the opposite of reality, but as how people imagine and give meaning to their experiences, thereby both shaping and resisting the so-called "realities" of Western cultures.

- lexicon
- topographies

On Maps/Topographies and The Academy

- Mapping the Syllabus and Setting Goals
  - A Topography for Lectures
- Sample of Lecture Notes By Dr. S. Gennaro
- A Topography for "Reading" Course Materials
  - A Solid Work Plan

About This Course (Detail 2)

- Western Dualisms (Binary Opposites)
- Some Classifications of "Reality" (e.g., Borges: Division of Animals)

Others to Consider

Consider the problematic assumptions at the root of the following statement:

“There are 2 kinds of people: those who believe that there are 2 kinds of people and those who don’t.”

The Faces of the Moon

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/04/140412-moon-faces-brain-culture-space-neurology/>

- First Stage Outline Of Main Thesis of Course: On Fantasy

Fantasy is **NOT** the opposite of reality. The way that we classify things in the world & our experience of them **depends upon the system or topography that we use**. In fact, fantasy is one of the ways that we in the West understand ourselves and the universe - it is a way of knowing ourselves and constructing reality for ourselves. A reality that is not relative to individual opinion but one that is based on **consensus** about certain key elements and definitions. One that is flexible and that can be transformed. Fantasy, then, is at the core of the human quest for knowledge and it is the means by which we make meaning of our experiences.

- On Templates

- A Digital Comic That Is Also A Wonderful Example Of How Templates Work: [xkcd https://xkcd.com/1110/](https://xkcd.com/1110/)

- Topographies for "Reading" Fantasy

- Knowledges about Humans in the West

- Knowledges about Marginalized

- Shapes the World

- Touchstone to Changing Notions of "Reality"

- Importance of Language

- Unconscious & Forbidden Desires & Fears

"Survival Maps"

General: Excerpt, "How To Succeed At University."

At York

- Safety

- York Security (416) 736-5333 Go Safe (416) 736-5454

- Survival Strategies

- Counselling & Disability Services

- Personal Counselling Services (PCS)

- York's Sexual Assault Survivor's Support Line SASSL (For Information)

- Their Confidential 24 Hour Support Line: 416-650-8056

- York's Centre For Human Rights

- Especially for "Complaint / Case Resolution and Consultation," and Referrals

- York Federation of Students Food Bank: Food 4 Thought