

# Mythologies

## THIRD ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Due Monday, December 9, at 2:00 p.m. in my office. This essay should reach approximately five pages in length. Double-space everything. Use a standard-sized font, regular margins, and a staple. Title your essay, creatively if possible. If you wish to receive your essay back with my comments, you will need to give me a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



*I almost began to think that I was the monster that he said I was.*

– Victor Frankenstein

### OPTION A

The task is comparison and contrast, like the Second Essay. Choose one of the following pairs of texts: John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *The Waste Land*, or Genesis and *Oranges Are not the Only Fruit*.

Rather than discuss the entirety of both texts, this assignment asks you to choose *a single passage* from each, to read those focus passages very closely, and to compare and contrast them. Through this comparison, you should develop the outlines of a broader interpretation of mythology, of a particular myth, or an aspect of culture, without worrying about accounting for everything in the text or in mythology.

If you wish to include critical sources, you will need to append a bibliography; otherwise, it is not necessary.

### OPTION B

As the picture of *Southpark's* Satan above should suggest, many mythical figures continue to pop up in contemporary culture. Choose a single recent representation of a mythical figure we have discussed in class, and analyze what that representation has to say about the figure, about the myth in question, and about contemporary culture.

You will need a bibliography or Works Cited page for this option.