



## *Welsh Mythology Autumn 2016 Course*

Thank you for your interest in this [welshmythology.com](http://welshmythology.com) course. All of the information you need about taking part is provided here, but should you have any further questions, please email Dr Gwilym Morus-Baird at [welshmythology@gmail.com](mailto:welshmythology@gmail.com).

The course will mainly be delivered through a series of weekly seminars, with some introductory materials presented before the start date.

Students are encouraged to read *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi* before the course starts, although if you haven't had enough time to do so before we begin, please read the appropriate branches before the relevant seminars (see course outline on page 3).

The translation I suggest you read is by Sioned Davies, *The Mabinogion* (Oxford University Press, several editions starting 2007). This is by far the best, has a brilliant introduction, accompanying notes and bibliography. There is a Kindle version, but if for whatever reason you can't get hold of a copy, there are other translations; please don't use the Lady Charlotte Guest version.

It's important that you're familiar with the basic outline and characters of *The Four Branches* before we begin. The depth of the tales, the magic of their meaning, only becomes apparent when you're familiar with them. It's very easy to get lost in this mythic landscape, so a basic grasp of where you are will enable you to go further quicker.

A typical seminar will include: 1) bringing to mind the part of the tale under discussion; 2) understanding the finer points of the narrative; 3) introducing comparative material; 4) group discussion on comparisons, within and without the text.

Before the course begins, you're also encouraged to listen to Part 1 of the audio course. This will be sent through to you during early September. Part of the seminar in Week 1 will be based on this material, where there will be an opportunity to ask questions and explore some of the topics in greater detail.

## **Skype**

You will need a Skype account before you begin. It's free and easy to use. The software is easy to find and download. You will also need speakers and a microphone attached to your computer if you don't already have them, or a laptop that has them built in.

It's your responsibility to ensure your Skype connection works and that you have sufficient bandwidth to maintain the connection. If for any reason the connection drops out, then I will try and reconnect when convenient. If you do drop out during a seminar, please don't try to call back in, as I won't answer.

Instead: 1) Send a text message to me through Skype to let me know your connection is back on; 2) Once I see you're online I'll call you back into the conversation when it's convenient; this could take up to 10 minutes.

I will also be recording every seminar and you'll be able to listen back to any of them through a private page on the website.

## **What to do next?**

1. Get yourself a copy of *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*, preferably the translation by Sioned Davies in *The Mabinogion* (OUP 2007), then read it.
2. Pay a deposit of £40 before September 13th, 2016 to keep your place. Either by Paypal: pay gwilym\_morus@hotmail.com, or by bank transfer: Gwilym Morus, Barclays Bank, acc. no. 60985686, sort code 20-35-47
3. Pay the remaining sum of £80 before October 1st, 2016.
4. Read *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*.
5. If you haven't already, download Skype and make sure you can use it.

6. Email your Skype name to [welshmythology@gmail.com](mailto:welshmythology@gmail.com) and let me know if you'd like to take part on the Tuesday or Thursday course; if there's space you're welcome to change which weekly session you want to attend, just let me know in advance.
7. Listen to Part 1 of the audio course before the first seminar.
8. Read *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*.

### Course Outline

Start Dates: September 20th and 22nd, 7:30 UK time. Please let me know if you would like to take part in the Tuesday or Thursday seminars.

Duration: Each seminar will last about an hour and a half, although if discussion is fruitful, perhaps two hours. The course lasts 12 weeks, finishing on December 6th and 8th.

<b>Week 1</b>	Introductions / Questions and Discussion on Part 1
<b>Week 2</b>	Questions and Discussions on Part 2 / What is a symbol?
<b>Week 3</b>	Pwyll in Annwfn (1st Branch)
<b>Week 4</b>	The Magical Huntsman (1st Branch)
<b>Week 5</b>	Rhiannon and the Fairy Brides (1st Branch)
<b>Week 6</b>	The Cauldron (2nd Branch)
<b>Week 7</b>	A fo ben bid bont (2nd Branch)
<b>Week 8</b>	Manawydan and Pryderi (3rd Branch)
<b>Week 9</b>	Arianrhod and Blodeuwedd (4th Branch)
<b>Week 10</b>	Gwydion and Lleu (4th Branch)
<b>Week 11</b>	Overview of the Four Branches
<b>Week 12</b>	<i>Culhwch ac Olwen</i>

