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Coming up this year:

- Advances in Medicine
- Treaty of Waitangi

Payment methods in order of preference

Please state 'Series 2' when paying

1. Direct Credit to U3A Invercargill
Acc: 03 1746 0080910 000
2. EFTPOS
Debit card payment available on the day
3. Cash (\$30 per person) in a named envelope

Contact

We prefer to contact you by email. If you have an email address, and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

Paper copies of the brochure are always available if you are unable to print one for yourself.

Website

For further information on U3A (including previous brochures) see our website:

<https://www.u3ainvercargill.nz/>



March - April 2026

Series 2

The Wisdom of Mythology

Series Organiser: Murray Pfeifer



Venue:	Windsor Community Church 19 Windsor St
Time:	10.00am
Cost:	\$30 per person

Series 2

The Wisdom of Mythology

Series Presenter: Professor Terry Doyle

Terence Doyle is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Medicine at University of Otago.

Now retired from active medical practice, he is currently Society of Apothecaries of London Lecturer in History of Medicine at University of Otago.



For many years, Terence was Professor of Radiology and Head of Department of Radiology in Dunedin. Professionally Terence had many strings to his bow but he was probably best known for establishing breast imaging in the southern region. He led a highly successful pilot programme for mammographic breast screening in the region.

He specialises in presenting History of Medicine and Science in interesting ways, with a range of lectures extending from the Classical period to the Modern era.

His research interests focus on the Early Modern and Eighteenth Century periods; particularly the Latin works of Francis Glisson and the archival material in the Monro Collection at University of Otago.

Introduction

In this course we look at stories in ancient and more recent mythologies, their origin and significance for the communities where they were found, and why they have survived to influence the literature and thinking of later generations. There will be a particular emphasis on how mythology has been interpreted in art.

Session 1 : Friday 13 March

Greek Mythology

What is a myth? What is its function? The Greek story of Creation. Gods, Goddesses and humanity in Greek thought. The poets and playwrights who tell us about myth. Heroes and Heroines. Herakles and the function of the Greek hero in mythology. Odysseus; the journey as metaphor

for human experience. The story of the Golden Fleece and the hero's return. The trials and tribulations of love.

Session 2 : Friday 20 March

Roman Mythology

The story of Rome's origins, Roman Gods and Goddesses, heroes and traitors, descent into the underworld. The Odyssey of Aeneas. Virgil and the Roman writers of myth.

Session 3 : Friday 27 March

Mythologies of Britain, Ireland and the North

Celtic myths and key themes. Norse myths and Gods.

The legends of Arthur, Merlin, Camelot and the Holy Grail, Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; the relationship to their culture.

Session 4 : Friday 24 April

Toward the Modern Era

Mythology of the Bible before and after. The stories of the Flood. Adam, Eve and their descendants in mythology and in art. Modern mythology; Lord of the Rings and Gandalf, Harry Potter and Dumbledore.