

MYTHOLOGY

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Office hours: M and Th 12:50-2:20 or by appointment

COURSE SUMMARY:

This course offers an introduction to the characters, themes and stories of Greek and Roman mythology. It is of particular interest to students of History, Philosophy, English, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Fine Arts and Foreign Literatures. It is envisioned as an introduction to the Ancient World in particular and to Western Culture, Art and Literature in general. The course will be mainly based on textual evidence with heavy emphasis on iconography. Mythology (GNHU 285) satisfies the GenEd General Humanities/World Literature requirement.

Mythology is a central part of Greek and Roman cultures, so in the process of learning about myth and its sources, the student will also learn something about ancient geography, art, literature and sacred sites and cities. Development of visual identification, analytical, and writing skills will be encouraged. Whenever possible, links with other ancient and modern works of art and literature will be drawn to expose the universality of myths and the great influence of Greek and Roman mythology in the Western World.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, the student will have accomplished the following goals:

- The student will have studied the founding stories of Greece and Rome.
- The student will be familiar with the major gods and goddesses of ancient Greece and Rome, with their spheres of influence, their characters, their relationships, and their exploits.
- The student will be familiar with several of the major ancient Greek and Roman literary works that preserve their myths.
- The student will have some familiarity with the visual arts that depict the myths and legends of Ancient Greece and Rome.
- The student will have appreciated some of the great influences, projections and adaptations of Classical myths in later literary works.

- The student will learn to think and write critically about the significance of ancient myths.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Texts:

- *Classical Myth*, 4th. edition, by Barry B. Powell.
- Course pack with critical articles.

Optional Texts:

The student may find a mythological dictionary helpful. I recommend Pierre Grimal, *A Dictionary of Classical Mythology*. A large **English dictionary** (or regular access to an on-line dictionary) is necessary for the vocabulary used in this class.

Electronic resources:

- There is a website that accompanies Powell's book: www.prenhall.com/powell
- *Classical Myth. The Ancient Sources*: <http://Web.uvic.ca/grs.bowman/myth/>
- *Diotima. Materials for the Study of Women and Gender in the Ancient World*: <http://www.uky.edu/AS/Classics/gender.html>
- *Perseus Project*: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

GRADES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The student will also complete daily (multiple choice or T or F) quizzes. Two quizzes on films will also be required, plus a Museum visit report and a 'creative project'.

Grades are calculated as follows:

Mid-term: 20%

Final: 20%

Quizzes: 15%

Film reports: 10 % each (20%)

Museum visit report: 20%

Office hours visits: 5%

CALCULATION OF GRADES:

A: 95-100

A-: 90-95

B+: 87-89

B: 83-
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 63-66
D-: 60-62
F: 59 and below

Mid-Term and Final: The exams will not be comprehensive, but the final will be more complex than the mid-term and will assume knowledge of the first half of the course. Only in extreme, documented circumstances can make-ups for these exams be arranged.

Quizzes: Quizzes will test factual knowledge such as names of gods, genealogy, etc. They will usually be multiple choice or 'T or F'. They will be based on the readings assigned for that particular class. All quizzes will be done on Blackboard and they will be available from the end of one class to the beginning of the class for which a certain reading is assigned. When you do the quizzes on Blackboard you will be able to use your textbook and other course materials. Quizzes can only be done online. If you miss class, a quiz done before the missed class will still count, but there will be no make-ups for quizzes. If you did not have access to Bb once or twice you should not worry as you will be allowed to drop your worst six quiz grades, including the 0 you got for missing a quiz. Quizzes for films, however, are mandatory and cannot be dropped.

Film reports: Two films with Classical themes will be viewed: Guillermo del Toro's *Pan's Labyrinth* and The Coen Brother's *'O Brother, Where art Thou?'*. Film reports of about 2 pages must be completed for each film. Guidelines will be provided.

Museum Assignment: (2-4 pages): You will be asked to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on your own time and complete an assignment. We will not be going together as a class.

Office hours visits: You must come to mandatory office hours visits twice in the semester. Once in the month of February and the other in the month of April. Each visit will be worth 2.5% of your grade.

Extra credit: There will be several opportunities for extra-credit. Each assignment can count for up to 1% of your final grade.

PLAGIARISM: Whenever you use more than four words taken from an author other than yourself, you must indicate so by placing the phrase between quotation marks and indicating the source either in a footnote or in between brackets following the text cited (i.e. "Some of the best looking Gorgons appear as reliefs" (Wilks (2000), p.37). Then you

should include the full citation in your bibliography. Failure to do this constitutes plagiarism and is not only grounds for an F but the professor may decide to take your case to the University's disciplinary committee, which may lead to the eventual dismissal of the student from the institution. Please don't just change a few words here and there to avoid plagiarism. Rephrase and use your own words. The first time plagiarism is noticed you will fail the entire assignment. The second time, you will fail the entire course. Whether you copied from another person or someone else copied from, your work will be considered plagiarism. Thus you are entirely responsible from protecting your own work from the eyes of other students. In recent semesters I have had to fail students for various forms of plagiarism, so please BE VERY CAREFUL and DO YOUR OWN WORK!!

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
9-6	Th	NO CLASS. THE PROFESSOR IS AT A CONFERENCE	
9-10	M	Introduction to the class and guidelines. Introduction to Myth. <i>Creation and Cosmogony</i>. Read Powell, Ch. 4.	
9-13	Th	The creation of Man. Powell, Ch. 5.	
9-17	M	Gods and Goddesses. Zeus and Hera. Powell, Ch. 6.	
9-20	Th	The Male Deities. Powell, Ch. 7.	
9-24	M	The Male Deities. Powell, Ch. 7.	
9-27	Th	The Female Deities. Powell, Ch. 8.	
10-1	M	P. Salzman, section from Chapter 4 of her book <i>A Web of Fantasies. Gaze, Image and Gender in Ovid's Metamorphoses</i> . (on Arachne). (On Blackboard)	
10-4	Th	Myths of Fertility. Powell, Ch. 9	
10-8	M	FILM: <i>PAN'S LABYRINTH</i>	
10-11	Th	FILM: <i>PAN'S LABYRINTH</i>	
10-15	M	Myths of Fertility. Dionysus. Powell, Ch. 10.	FILM REPORT #1 DUE
10-18	Th	Myths of Death. The Underworld. Powell, Ch.11	
10-22	M	J. Cortazar, <i>The Maenads</i> . (On Blackboard)	
10-25	Th		MID TERM EXAM
10-29	M	Heroic Myth. Powell, Ch. 12. Perseus and the Myths of the Argive Plain. Powell, Ch. 13.	
11-1	Th	Heracles. Powell, Ch. 14	
11-5	M	Theseus and the Myths of Athens. Powell, Ch. 15. Joplin, "The Voice of the Shuttle is Ours." (On Blackboard)	
11-8	Th	The Myths of Crete, Powell, Ch. 16.	
11-12	M	<u>Oedipus and the Myths of Thebes, Powell, Ch. 17.</u>	
11-15	Th	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>	
11-19	M	Jason and the Myths of Iolcus and Calydon. Powell, Ch.18. Euripides, <i>Medea</i> .	
11-22	Th	NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING.	

11-26	M	The Trojan War. Powell, Ch. 19.	
11-29	Th	The Trojan War. Powell, Ch. 20.	MUSEUM VISIT REPORT DUE
12-3	M	Odysseus. Powell, Ch. 21.	
12-6	Th	Film: “O Brother, where art thou?”	
12-10	M	Film: “O Brother, where art thou?” Flensted-Jensen, Pernille "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed: the Odyssey and O Brother, Where Art Thou?" <i>C&M</i> 53 (2002) 13-30. (on Blackboard)	
12-13	Th	Roman Myth. Powell, Ch. 22.	FILM REPORT #2 DUE
	M	LAST DAY OF CLASS. REVIEW	

FINAL EXAM	Thursday, December 20 th 1:00-3:00 PM
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