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FLLG 160L.01: Classical Mythology

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Course objectives: This term we will examine the nature of myth and the way it can speak to people in the culture which created it and other cultures like our own. You will become acquainted with the myths of the Greeks and Romans and the deities and heroes who inhabit them. You will investigate some of the patterns which inform various mythologies around the world and see how myth formed the basis for various literary works of the Greco-Roman world. You will read some variants of “mythic accounts” to question their origins and functions and consider how Classical myth has influenced the literary and artistic traditions of the western world. By the end of the course, you will be able to discuss the main points of many of the interpretative frameworks used in the modern world to “explain” various myths, and you will be able to analyze a particular myth in terms of various appropriate interpretative frameworks. You will consider the mythic underpinnings of our own society and your individual “myth.”

M 1/28 Chapter 1: Introduction to Greek Myth
 W 1/30
 F 2/1

M 2/4 Chapter 2: Ways of Interpreting Myth
 W 2/6
 F 2/8

M 2/11 Chapter 3: In the Beginning: Hesiod’s *Theogony*
 W 2/13
 F 2/15

[LAST DAY TO DROP/ADD BY CYBERBEAR]

M 2/18 **HOLIDAY: NO CLASS MEETING**
 W 2/20
 F 2/22

MID-TERM # 1 (chapters 1-3); Chapter 4: The Great Goddess and the Goddesses:
 The Divine Woman in Greek Mythology

M 2/25
 W 2/27
 F 3/1

M 3/4 Chapter 5: The Olympian Family of Zeus
 W 3/6
 F 3/8

M 3/11
 W 3/13
 F 3/15 Chapter 6: The World in Decline: Alienation of the Human and Divine

MARCH 18-22: SPRING BREAK

M 3/25 **MID-TERM # 2 (chapters 4-6)**
 W 3/27
 F 3/29

M 4/1 Chapter 14: Cosmic Conflict and Evolution: Aeschylus’ Transformation of the Prometheus Myth;
Prometheus Bound
 W 4/3
 F 4/5

M 4/8 Chapter 10: Heroes and Heroines of Myth
W 4/10
F 4/12

M 4/15
W 4/17
F 4/19

M 4/22 **MID-TERM # 3 (chapters 6, 10, 14)**; Chapter 12: A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of
Odysseus: *Odyssey*
W 4/24
F 4/26

M 4/29
W 5/1
F 5/3 Chapter 17: Euripides' *Medea*: A Different Perspective on Tragedy

M 5/6
W 5/8
F 5/10

Text: Harris, Stephen L. and Gloria Platzner, *Classical Mythology. Images and Insights (3rd edition ONLY, 2001)*

Final exam: 3:20-5:20, Wednesday, May 15

Grading Scale: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, etc.

Grading Procedures: Mid-term exams 25% each
Final exam 25%

Office hours: Mondays 1:15-3:00
Tuesdays 9-10, 11:10-12
Wednesdays 1-3
Thursdays 1-3

and by appointment

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