

Fall 9-1-2018

CLAS 160L.01: Classical Mythology

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CLAS 160: Classical Mythology %

Fall 2018 %

Instructor information:

Instructor: Matthew Semanoff

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Phone: 243-2401

Office hours: MWF 2:00-3:00, Th 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

Course Information:

Time and Days: 3:00-3:50 MWF

Room: Social Science 356

Course description:

Classical Mythology is an exploration of the ancient stories, legends, and folk tales of the gods and heroes of the Greeks and Romans. We will study ancient stories – many of which will be familiar through adaptations in film, music, art, and contemporary retellings – through Greek and Roman literature. Although many of these stories come down to us as told by a particular poet (e.g. Hesiod, the Homeric Hymns, or Ovid) we will try to explore how myths fulfill a variety of functions, how myths can be told and re-told for different purposes, and how myths often provide a symbolic framework through which the world can be better explained and understood. While this class will focus on the myths of the Greeks and the Romans, we will also discuss Near Eastern sources and parallels as well as later versions and adaptations of these Classical Myths.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, the successful student will be able to:

1. * define “myth” and the various categories of it;
2. * list and understand the importance of the specific characteristics which define Greek and Roman mythology;
3. * identify the gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon, recognize the “attributes” of each deity, and discuss the roles of the various deities in the ancient world;
4. * discuss the classical myths represented in ancient art and literature within their historical and cultural frameworks;
5. * identify major frameworks, ancient and modern, by which classical myth has been interpreted.
6. * apply various interpretative frameworks to major myths as appropriate;
7. * be able to recognize features of classical myths that have influenced western culture in general and continue to influence contemporary art and literature;
8. * understand the continued legacy of classical myth in our art, literature, and thought.

Required textbook:

Powell, Barry B. *Classical Myth*. 8th edition. Pearson. 2014.

Additional readings will be made available on the Moodle Course Shell. Please bring the appropriate books to lecture, or have access to those posted on Moodle.

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/958465>
Note: our Course Join Code is 958465

Top Hat requires a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Course Calendar:

A full schedule of readings, assignments, is available on the Moodle Course Shell. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

There will be an opportunity for the class to direct the readings and topics covered following the second exam. At least three classes will be devoted to heroic myth, but the heroes studied will depend on class interests. There will also be two weeks devoted to a Classical Reception projects, that will provide an opportunity for students to present on topics of their own choice. (More details to follow)

Course guidelines and policies:

Grading policy

Grades will be calculated according to the following breakdown: 10% Participation; 35% Micro-themes; 15% Classical Reception Assignment; 40% Quizzes and Exams.

- **Participation:** Student participation grades will be based on attendance, periodic quizzes during lectures, and other student engagement activities through the Top Hat platform. An account with Top Hat is mandatory.

Micro-themes: Students will be assigned weekly micro-themes based on assigned topics. The topic will be assigned on Monday of the week during which the micro-theme is due. The micro-themes will be submitted via Moodle by 2:00 pm on Fridays.
- **Classical Reception Group Assignment:** Students will be assigned groups to work on a project that examines how a specific Greek or Roman myth is re-told and re-interpreted after the classical period. These projects may focus on myth in visual arts and performing arts, literature, or film. Groups may also decide to create their own re-telling of a myth and write an artist's statement explaining the relationship of the ancient myth within today's culture. More details to follow.
- **Quizzes and Exams:** Students will take two mid-term examinations and a final examination. Additionally, there will be periodic quizzes in class throughout lectures. The grades for in-class quizzes will be split between participation and the quiz grade.

Attendance

I expect you to make every effort to attend class. If you are unable to do so, please contact me; you are responsible for making any necessary arrangements for whatever you missed in class. Late assignments will be penalized by one grade per day, unless prior arrangements have been made. I will not reschedule quizzes or exams unless arrangements have been made prior to the absence.

Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#).

Preliminary Schedule of Topics and Readings. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class lectures and through Moodle announcements (email).

Week 1

8/27/18	Monday	Introduction. What is a myth: Myth, Legend, Folktale, Mythology
8/29/18	Wednesday	Cultural Context Powell, Chapter 2
8/31/18	Friday	Cultural Background Continued Powell, Chapter 2

Week 2

9/3/18	Monday	Labor Day -- No Class
9/5/18	Wednesday	Origins: Hesiod on the Cosmos and the Birth of the Gods Powell, Chapter 4
9/7/18	Friday	Theogony and Near Eastern Succession Myths Enuma Elish, Genesis, Kumarbi (Moodle) Micro-theme #1

Week 3

9/10/18	Monday	The Origin of Mortals Powell, Chapter 5
9/12/18	Wednesday	BOR - Billings
9/14/18	Friday	Myths of Creation II: Mortals selection from Plato's Protagoras; Genesis 2-3, 6-9; the Orphic tradition (Moodle) Micro-theme #2

Week 4

9/17/18	Monday	The Study of Myth: Background and Definitions Reading from Maurizio "Classical Myths and Contemporary Questions" (Moodle)
9/19/18	Wednesday	Apollo Powell, Chapter 7
9/21/18	Friday	Apollo Continued Micro-theme #3

Week 5

9/24/18	Monday	Hermes, Pan, Hephaestus, and Ares Powell, Chapter 8
9/26/18	Wednesday	Hermes, Pan, Hephaestus, and Ares selection from Hyde "Trickster Makes This World: Mischief, Myth, and Art" (Moodle)
9/28/18	Friday	Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena Powell, Chapter 9 Micro-theme #4

Week 6

10/1/18	Monday	Artemis, Apollo, and Niobe Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> 6.209-450 (Moodle)
10/3/18	Wednesday	Discussion and Review
10/5/18	Friday	First Exam

Week 7

10/8/18	Monday	***Theories of Myth Interpretation*** Powell, Chapter 25
10/10/18	Wednesday	Myth Interpretation Continued
10/12/18	Friday	Myths of Fertility: Demeter Powell, Chapter 10 Micro-theme #5

Week 8

10/15/18	Monday	Demeter Continued Ishtar's Descent to the Underworld (Moodle)
10/17/18	Wednesday	Myths of Fertility: Dionysus Powell, Chapter 11
10/19/18	Friday	Dionysus Continued "Liminality, Inversion, Initiation" (Moodle) Micro-theme #6

Week 9

10/22/18	Monday	Myths of Death: Underworld Powell, Chapter 12
10/24/18	Wednesday	Underworld continued Gilgamesh and the Underworld AIA lecture: Alison Futrell
10/26/18	Friday	Adonis and Orpheus selections from <i>Metamorphoses</i> and <i>Georgics</i> (Moodle) Micro-theme #7

Week 10

10/29/18	Monday	Discussion and Review
10/31/18	Wednesday	Second Exam
11/2/18	Friday	Defining the Hero Readings from Maurizio, Chapter 10 (Moodle)

Week 11

11/5/18	Monday	Origins of Heroic Myth Powell, Chapter 13
11/7/18	Wednesday	Transcending Death: Gilgamesh and Odysseus Readings TBA
11/9/18	Friday	Heroic Myth Readings TBA Micro-theme #8

Week 12

11/12/18	Monday	Veterans' Day -- No Class
11/14/18	Wednesday	Heroic Myth Readings TBA
11/16/18	Friday	AIA Lecture: Rafael Chacon BOR - Missoula Micro-theme #9

Week 13

11/19/18	Monday	Heroic Myth Readings TBA
11/21/18	Wednesday	Thanksgiving -- No Class
11/23/18	Friday	Thanksgiving -- No Class

Week 14

11/26/18	Monday	Roman Myth: Legends of Aeneas Powell, Chapter 23
11/28/18	Wednesday	Aeneas in the Underworld Reading TBA
11/30/18	Friday	Origins of Rome Continued: Aeneid and Legends of Early Rome Powell, Chapter 24 Micro-theme #10

Week 15

12/3/18	Monday	Myth Projects
12/5/18	Wednesday	Myth Projects
12/7/18	Friday	Myth Projects