Fall 9-1-2018

CLAS 160L.01: Classical Mythology

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University of Montana, Missoula

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Instructor information:
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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:

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
  - 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 *Metamorphoses* 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 *Metamorphoses* and *Georgics* (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
<table>
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<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/12/18</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Veterans' Day -- No Class</td>
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|            | 11/14/18   | Wednesday | Heroic Myth  
|            |            |         | Readings TBA  
|            |            |         | AIA Lecture: Rafael Chacon        |
|            | 11/16/18   | Friday  | BOR - Missoula  
|            |            |         | Micro-theme #9                    |
| Week 13    | 11/19/18   | Monday  | Heroic Myth                    |
|            | 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                   |