

Introduction to Classical Mythology

CLA204H1-S: LEC0101, LEC2501, and LEC5101

Winter 2021

Online Asynchronous Course

Lecture Time: weekly lectures are posted on Sundays at 7:00pm EST

Instructor: Naomi Neufeld

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Virtual Office Hours/Question-and-Answer Sessions: Tuesday and Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm EST

Teaching Assistants:

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Course Objectives:

This course aims to introduce you to many of the major mythological cycles of Greek and Roman antiquity that have been preserved to our time. This course emphasizes the importance of contextualising myths in their broader historical, cultural, social and religious frameworks in order to delve deeper into the significance of these stories for understanding Greco-Roman antiquity. It aims to go beyond a simple survey of the mythical narratives in order to examine questions such as “What can these myths tell us about the past?” and “How and why did these myths come about?” This course will examine mythological content from several different ancient media: poetry, drama, history, and the visual arts. It will also emphasize the thematic connections between the myths, investigating questions such as (but not limited to): what constitutes a hero in Greco-Roman antiquity, how are women portrayed in mythology, how are society and social norms are represented in myth, how are religion and myth connected, and how is myth used in the ancient Mediterranean as a tool for understanding and interpreting the world, society, and even identity? This course also aims to develop students’ skills in comprehending ancient evidence (both textual and material culture), encouraging them to discover the deeper significance behind the myths of ancient Greece and Rome.

Required Texts: Most texts are available through the Library Course Reserves link on this class’ Quercus page. Texts marked in red are those for which an electronic copy through the library is **not available**. They may be purchased through the UofT Bookstore. They may also be available for purchase in e-book format through other online services.

- The Essential Homer, translated and edited by Stanley Lombardo. (Hackett Publishing, 2000) ISBN 9780872205406
- The Aeneid, translated by Robert Fagles and with an introduction by Bernard Knox. (Penguin Classics, 2010) ISBN 9781101201541

- Works of Hesiod and the Homeric Hymns, translated by Daryl Hine. (University of Chicago Press, 2005) 9780226329673
- Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*, translated by Robert Fagles and with an introduction by Bernard Knox. (Penguin Classics, 1984) ISBN: 9780140444254
- Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, excerpted from the book *Aeschylus' Oresteia*, translated by Peter Meineck and with an introduction by Helene P. Foley. (Hackett Publishing, 1998) ISBN 9780872203907.
- Euripides' *Medea*, translated by Michael Collier and Georgia Machemer (Oxford University Press, 2006) ISBN: 9780198033295
- Livy's *the Rise of Rome* translated by T.J. Luce. (Oxford University Press: 2008) ISBN: 9780199540044.
- Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by Charles Martin and with an introduction by Bernard Knox. (Norton: 2005). ISBN: 9780393326420.

Course Delivery: This is an online course administered through Quercus (<https://q.utoronto.ca>). Lectures will be delivered asynchronously, and will consist of a 2-3 hour PowerPoint presentation with voice recordings accompanying each slide. The weekly lecture will become available for viewing on Quercus on Sundays at 7:00pm EST. Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm-2:00pm EST, the course instructor will hold a question-and-answer/discussion session where students will be able to ask questions about the lecture material, readings, assignments, and course expectations. Attendance of these sessions is not required, but it is encouraged that students attend one of these sessions per week. These sessions will be held through Blackboard Collaborate, unless unexpected technical difficulties arise. Assignments, quizzes, and the final assessment will be administered through Quercus, and students will be required to submit all of their work through Quercus. Submissions by email will not be accepted.

Evaluation:

50% Assignments (5 Assignments, 10% each)

10% Quizzes (5 Quizzes, 2% each)

40% Final Assessment (Date TBD)

Assignments: There will be 5 assignments in this course, the due dates for which can be found in the class schedule below. There will be no late submissions accepted and no extensions granted, except in the case of students who provide university-verified documentation (see missed evaluation policy below). You will be given one passage selected from the readings which has not been discussed in class. You are required to analyze the passage's significance and contextualise it in its broader historical, social, political, or religious framework (not all of these may apply to every passage), and try to connect the passage to some of the broader overarching themes that we keep discussing in this course. You are not to summarize the myth, or rewrite the contents of the passage. Your answer must be a half to one-page response, single spaced, using

size 12 font, Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins on all sides. Although encouraged, extra research and a bibliography are not required; however, if you do consult external sources, it is essential that you cite the sources of your information following a proper academic citation style (e.g. Chicago, MLA, APA).

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes that will be administered through Quercus. These will be short quizzes comprising of 5 multiple choice questions. They are designed to test your reading preparation and will ask questions about details found in the readings. They will be available on Quercus on Mondays at 8:00am EST, and they must be completed by the following Friday at 11:59pm, after which time, the quiz will close and you will no longer be able to submit your answers. There will be no late quizzes accepted or extensions granted, and there will be no make-up quizzes given for a missed quiz.

Final Assessment: The final assessment will comprise of questions that test your comprehension of the material and your ability to contextualise the evidence and explore its deeper significance to the ancient world. You will be given similar types of questions to the weekly assignments, although most of the material for these questions will be drawn from passages covered in lecture. You will also have short essay questions that will ask you to engage with the broader thematic questions that we have been discussing throughout this course, where you will have to bring in concrete examples from the readings to support your arguments. This assessment will be administered on Quercus at a date TBD. If special accommodations are required, please make

Course Policies:

Missed Evaluations, Assignments, and Quizzes: Only documented illness and unforeseeable family circumstances will be considered legitimate reasons for a missed evaluation. Requests for an excused missed evaluation should be submitted to the Course Instructor within one week of the assignment's due date using the university's Verification of Illness and Injury Form (www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). You will be required to submit proper documentation (e.g. a Doctor's note) to support your case. There are no make-up opportunities in this course. If you miss an assignment or quiz because of a university-verified excuse, that percentage of your grade will be redistributed to your other weekly assignments/quizzes. There will be no late submissions permitted for any evaluations: if your assignment or quiz is not submitted by 11:59pm EST on the due date, it will be considered a missed assignment. There will be no extensions granted, except in the case of a student who has coordinated with Accessibility Services to make alternate arrangements. These alternate arrangements must be made with Accessibility Services as soon as possible in the semester, and at the very minimum, at least a week in advance of the assessment or assignment's due date.

Email policy: **Emails from any account other than your University of Toronto email address will not be answered, nor will emails regarding information that is readily available on this syllabus.** Questions about lecture material, readings, and assignments should be asked through the question-and-answer periods on Quercus on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-2:00pm

EST. Email should be reserved for contacting the Instructor for other concerns about the course. Do not expect a response to emails between 4:00pm on Fridays and 9:00am on Mondays. The Instructor will communicate with the class by sending messages through Quercus, so you are strongly encouraged to make sure that your Quercus preferences are set to forward correspondence directly to your email account.

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any concerns regarding accessibility in connection with the course, the classroom, or the course materials, please **contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:** www.accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to behave in accordance with the Faculty's Codes of Behavior on Academic Matters and Student Conduct. These codes are available online at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies.htm. If you have questions about the codes or want advice about their contents, please consult your college registrar.

Content Warning: The mythology of ancient Greece and Rome represents topics including warfare, suicide, slavery, sexual assault, and other forms of violence. All reading assignments in this course are required. For resources that may help you to manage stress and anxiety, please contact the Health and Wellness Centre or your college registrar.

Important Dates: **All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm EST at the latest on the due date.** After this time, Quercus will no longer accept submissions, and no late submissions will be allowed via email to the Course Instructor or TAs. All quizzes will be available for five days, from Monday to Friday of their respective week, and **must be completed by 11:59pm EST Friday at the latest.** After this time, Quercus will no longer accept submissions, and no late submissions will be allowed via email to the Course Instructor or TAs.

Assignment 1	Friday, January 22
Quiz 1	Monday, February 1 st -Friday, February 5 th
Assignment 2	Friday, February 5 th
Quiz 2	Monday, February 22 nd -Friday, February 26 th
Assignment 3	Friday, February 26 th
Quiz 3	Monday, March 8 th -Friday, March 12 th
Assignment 4	Friday, March 12 th
Quiz 4	Monday, March 29 th - Friday, April 2 nd
Assignment 5	Friday, April 2 nd
Quiz 5	Monday, April 4 th -Friday, April 9 th
Final Assessment	TBD