

CLA 396 MYTHS OF ROME – SUMMER ONLINE 2023

Instructor: Rosemary C. Condella
Email: rcondella@uri.edu

Course Description

What is myth? Who are the Roman gods? How did the Romans worship them? What was their relationship with the gods? What are their most famous stories? This course will examine concepts of divinity, ritual and mystery through the eyes of the ancient Romans. We will explore the nature of the universe, humanity's place in it, the path of the hero, magic, and origin stories which attempt to explain who the Romans were – and in many ways, who we are. All readings are in English translation.

Required Texts

1. An Introduction to Roman Religion, John Scheid, Indiana University Press, 2003
a ISBN-13: 978-0253216601
2. Metamorphoses, Ovid. Translated by Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Classics, 2010.
a ISBN-13: 978-1603843072
3. Aeneid, Virgil. Translated by Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Classics, 2006.
a ISBN-13: 978-0872207325
4. Metamorphoses, The Golden Ass, Apuleius. Translated by Sarah Ruden. Yale University Press, 2013.
a ISBN-13: 978-0300198140

Course Goals

- To define “MYTH” usefully & appropriately.
- To become familiar with the broad outlines of Roman myth and a selection of specific myths.
- To recognize the influence & importance of Roman myth today: literature, art, history, & religion.

This course fulfills the following General Education Requirements:

- **General Education Category** for students who enrolled before the 2016-2017 Academic Year
 - Fine Arts & Literature
 - Integrated Skills: Read Complex Texts; Write Effectively; Use of Qualitative Data
- **General Education Learning Outcomes** for students who first enrolled in the 2016-2017 Academic Year or later
 - Humanities Knowledge Area (Outcome A3)
 - Global Responsibilities (Outcome C2)

The Nature of An Online Course

- This course will run exclusively online via the Brightspace Learning Management System (LMS). The course is asynchronous – this means that we shall never meet in person, but you shall complete your work within a specified timeframe. In this course, assignments open and close on a weekly basis. While some people enjoy this type of course, others find it extremely challenging. Please check the Weekly Course Schedule for all due dates. Feel free to access and utilize the materials and various components of the Brightspace course whenever you like. Brightspace is open for business 24/7.
- This online course contains the same amount of content and coursework as a normal semester-long course. I have taken no short-cuts in that respect, although I have made some adjustments in the types of assignments and graded materials which I have incorporated into the course. In other words, just because this is a shorter, online course, do not expect to do less work. In fact, you may feel that you are doing more work. This is the nature of an intensive online summer course. We have approximately 1/3 the time to complete the work of a full semester.
- You have chosen to take this online course of your own free will. GE/Core courses are offered in person on a regular basis during the semesters. You specifically chose this particular course. This means that you accept responsibility for the technology which we shall be using. The main internet platform which we shall use this semester is the Learning Management System (LMS) Brightspace. Please acquaint yourselves with Brightspace and this particular course design. You are also responsible for checking your URI email account on a regular basis throughout the course. Make sure that your Brightspace notifications are active – all course communications are via Brightspace notices.
- It is strongly recommended that you install the Brightspace app called Pulse on your smartphone. You can read files, take quizzes, post discussion board comments, and receive important course notifications with this app.
- N.B. If you are taking this course long distance and are not in the same time zone as URI (Eastern Time), please note that all due dates correspond with Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

• ***** Please make sure that you have a reliable internet connection. *****

Grades

URI's standard grade scale will be used for this course.

F	0-59.49
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A	93.5-100
A-	89.5-93.49
B+	86.5-89.49
B	83.5-86.49
B-	79.5-83.49
C+	76.5-79.49
C	73.5-76.49
C-	69.5-73.49
D+	66.5-69.49
D	59.5-66.49

- **Brightspace Quizzes** 40%
(3x per week -- 15 total)
- **Forum/Discussion Posts** 35%
(2x per week – 10 total)
- **Final Paper** 25%
(due at the end of the 5th week on Sunday at midnight)

Brightspace Quizzes (40%)

- 3 multiple-choice, true/false quizzes per week based on the readings and PPT lectures on Brightspace.
 - 10 questions per quiz.
 - 15 quizzes total, the lowest grade will be dropped.
 - Quizzes open on Mondays at 12:01am and are due at the end of the week on Friday, midnight (11:59pm).
 - Quizzes have 2 attempts, 30-minute time limit. The higher score will be recorded.
 - During the first week of the course all materials are due by Tuesday, midnight (11:59pm) in Week 2 so that students in the drop/add period may participate in the first week's assignments without penalty.

Forum/Discussion Posts (35%)

- Students will be divided into three (3) discussion groups with up to 7-10 students in each group, depending on the final size of the class roster.
- Due to the heavy roster fluctuation that occurs during the open add/drop period in Week 1 of the course, students will receive their group assignment on Tuesday evening in Week 1.
 - If students register after that time, they will receive a group assignment within 24 hours.
- For each due date, two groups will be active, and one group will be passive. The groups will rotate through the week so that two groups will always be active and participating on the forums, and the third group will be passive. The groups responsible for posting will be indicated in each Forum/Discussion.
- For example, this is the schedule for the first reading:
 - Group A – active – posts the initial post using the provided prompt. Minimum 200 words. Graded on a 10-point scale.
 - Group B – active – responds to at least two (2) of Group A's initial posts. Minimum 100 words. Graded on a 10-point scale (i.e., 5 points each response post).
 - Group C – passive – responsible for reading all the forum posts (this information is available to the instructor in Brightspace – so I know if you have read the posts or not). No grade.
- Weekly Forums/Discussions will be open from Monday at 12:01am until Friday at 11:59pm (midnight).
- N.B. This course is five (5) weeks long with three (3) posts per week, therefore there are a total of fifteen (15) weekly posts. Each group will post first five (5) times, respond five (5) times, and read five (5) times as we rotate through the schedule. Each student will have 10 forum grades in this course. There are no drops in this grade since you already have 5 built-in drops.
- The weekly discussion boards will assess the following criteria:
 - **Knowledge** of the assigned readings, relevant terms and concepts necessary for understanding and interpreting Ancient Roman Myths.
 - **Recognition** of concepts and tools relevant for appropriate analysis of Ancient Greek Myths.
 - **Discussion** of issues of **Global Identity, Global Language, and Global Impact**, as they relate to Ancient Roman Myth.

Final Paper (25%)

- 4-7 page paper (1200-2000 words)
- Due on Saturday, midnight (11:59pm), at the end of Week 5
- Submissions due on Brightspace.
- Google Docs only.
- Late submissions will incur a penalty.
- A grading rubric is attached to the Paper Assignment on Brightspace.
- Topic Options:
 - Discuss the relationship between gods and men as you see it in the texts which we have read this session. What is myth? How does myth aid men and women in their understanding of the gods? Do myths bring people closer to the gods? Choose ONE scene/episode from one of the three mythological texts we have read – Vergil's Aeneid, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Apuleius' Golden Ass – and analyze it, using the anthropological tools we have acquired from Scheid's An Introduction to Roman Religion. Topic suggestions provided in the Assignment tab.
 - Take one (or two) of the forum discussion prompts and develop it into a longer paper. You may use the comments on the thread to help you develop your thesis.

Paper Grading Criteria:

- **Spelling & Grammar** – There is no excuse for poor spelling and grammar. All Word programs highlight mistakes and the Turnitin program has an additional filter you can use to check for mistakes. Also try www.paperrater.com for spelling and grammar assistance. Proofread!
- **Thesis statement** – Provide a clear thesis statement in your introductory paragraph. I should know in the first paragraph exactly what you intend to discuss in your paper. I should not have to search for it.
- **Structure** – Every essay, even the shortest, should have a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Clarity** – Do you make your points clearly? I should not be confused. Eschew obfuscation!
- **Support** – Any claim you make in an essay should be well grounded and include direct references to the text, including quotes.
- **Citations** – Cite everything. Everything. Every essay you turn in should have an attached works cited page. MLA format preferred. Classical texts have a special citation format which is a modification of MLA. An explanation is provided in the paper assignment description.

Plagiarism Warning!

- **First Offense** – student will receive a grade of ZERO for the assignment and will be notified in writing. The grade will not be eligible to be dropped (if it is a forum post or the final paper), but will be factored into the final grade.
- **Second Offense** – Student will FAIL the course and the appropriate chairs and deans will be notified in writing, along with the student.

If you are uncertain whether or not you have plagiarized, use this handy flowchart from Curtis Newbold, “The Visual Communication Guy” to identify different forms of plagiarism.

- <https://lifehacker.com/this-flowchart-explains-the-severity-of-different-types-1637797055>

Additional Writing Assignment Expectations

- Submit your papers as a Google Doc. Any other format will not be accepted.
- Make your essay is **no longer than the specified length**. If you exceed the word count, I will return the paper to you unread and ungraded and require you to edit it to the appropriate word count.
- Do not make up your own writing assignment. I will not accept an off-topic paper.
- Turn in your essays on time. There will be a penalty for late papers. This will allow me time to read and grade your essay and return it to you in time.
- Use a consistent writing format. MLA and Chicago formats are acceptable. APA format is NOT acceptable.
 - There is a special type of citation format for classical texts, which is a modified form of MLA. Details provided in the paper assignment on Brightspace.
- Carefully proofread all papers before submitting them.

Useful websites for paper writing and proofing (also, FREE!)

- The Owl at Purdue – assistance with general writing and citations
 - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- Paper Rater – assistance with proofing a paper for proper grammar and structure
 - <http://www.paperrater.com/>
- Grammarly – assistance with grammar, has a Chrome extension
 - <https://www.grammarly.com/>

Disabilities Notice

URI is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities to all of its programs and services in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability that entitles you to instructional or other accommodations, you need to register with Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 401-874-2108. Disability Services for Students will provide you with letters of accommodation for your professors as appropriate. You should speak with or email your professor as soon as possible (ideally within the first week of class) to discuss arrangements for implementing your accommodations. Your accommodations letter can be submitted via email.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity. The following are examples of academic dishonesty.

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (print or electronic) without appropriate citation
- Claiming disproportionate credit for work not done independently
- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams

- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same paper for more than one course without prior approval from the instructors.

Myths of Rome Summer Online 5-Week Course Schedule

- The page numbers correspond to the texts and translations which have been ordered for this course. If you purchase/obtain an alternate text (which I DO NOT recommend), you will need to follow the part/book numbers.
- The quizzes and forum posts for each reading open on Monday morning at 8:00am and are due at the end of the week on Friday at midnight, with the exception of the first week when the assignments are due on Sunday at midnight. The M/W/F days are listed here as the suggested pace that you should maintain through the week to avoid cramming at the end of every week.

Day	Week	Topic	Assignments
Mon.	1	Scheid's <u>An Introduction to Roman Religion</u> Part I, p.1-38	Quiz #1 & Forum Post #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Initial Post ○ Group B: Respond ○ Group C: Read
Wed.	1	Scheid's <u>An Introduction to Roman Religion</u> Parts II & III, p.41-126	Quiz #2 & Forum Post #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Read ○ Group B: Initial Post ○ Group C: Respond
Fri.	1	Scheid's <u>An Introduction to Roman Religion</u> Parts IV & V, p.129-191	Quiz #3 & Forum Post #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Respond ○ Group B: Read ○ Group C: Initial Post
Mon.	2	Ovid's <u>Metamorphoses</u> Books 1-3, p.5-88	Quiz #4 & Forum Post #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Initial Post ○ Group B: Respond ○ Group C: Read
Wed.	2	Ovid's <u>Metamorphoses</u> Books 4-6, p.91-171	Quiz #5 & Forum Post #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Read ○ Group B: Initial Post ○ Group C: Respond
Fri.	2	Ovid's <u>Metamorphoses</u> Books 7-9, p.175-263	Quiz #6 & Forum Post #6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Respond ○ Group B: Read ○ Group C: Initial Post
Mon.	3	Ovid's <u>Metamorphoses</u> Books 10-12, p.267-345	Quiz #7 & Forum Post #7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Initial Post ○ Group B: Respond ○ Group C: Read

Wed.	3	Ovid's <u>Metamorphoses</u> Books 13-15, p.349-445	Quiz #8 & Forum Post #8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Read ○ Group B: Initial Post ○ Group C: Respond
Fri.	3	Vergil's <u>Aeneid</u> Books 1-3, p.1-76	Quiz #9 & Forum Post #9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Respond ○ Group B: Read ○ Group C: Initial Post
Mon.	4	Vergil's <u>Aeneid</u> Books 4-6, p.77-161	Quiz #10 & Forum Post #10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Initial Post ○ Group B: Respond ○ Group C: Read
Wed.	4	Vergil's <u>Aeneid</u> Books 7-9, p.162-243	Quiz #11 & Forum Post #11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Read ○ Group B: Initial Post ○ Group C: Respond
Fri.	4	Vergil's <u>Aeneid</u> Books 10-12, p.244-340	Quiz #12 & Forum Post #12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Respond ○ Group B: Read ○ Group C: Initial Post
Mon.	5	Apuleius' <u>Golden Ass</u> Books 1-4, p.1-91	Quiz #13 & Forum Post #13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Initial Post ○ Group B: Respond ○ Group C: Read
Wed.	5	Apuleius' <u>Golden Ass</u> Books 5-8, p.92-184	Quiz #14 & Forum Post #14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Read ○ Group B: Initial Post ○ Group C: Respond
Fri.	5	Apuleius' <u>Golden Ass</u> Books 9-11, p.185-272	Quiz #15 & Forum Post #15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group A: Respond ○ Group B: Read ○ Group C: Initial Post
Sun.	5	Final Paper Due Sunday at midnight (11:59pm)	