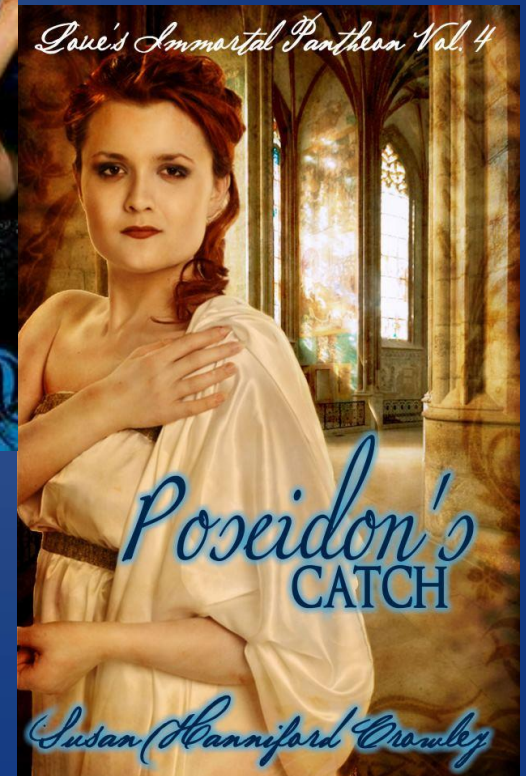
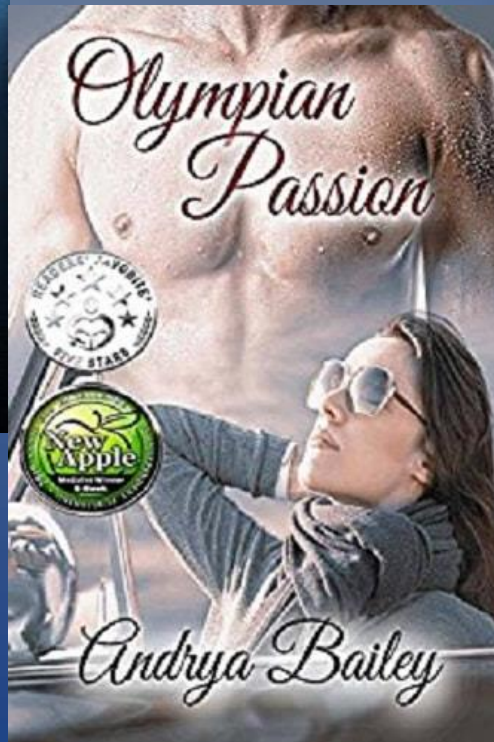
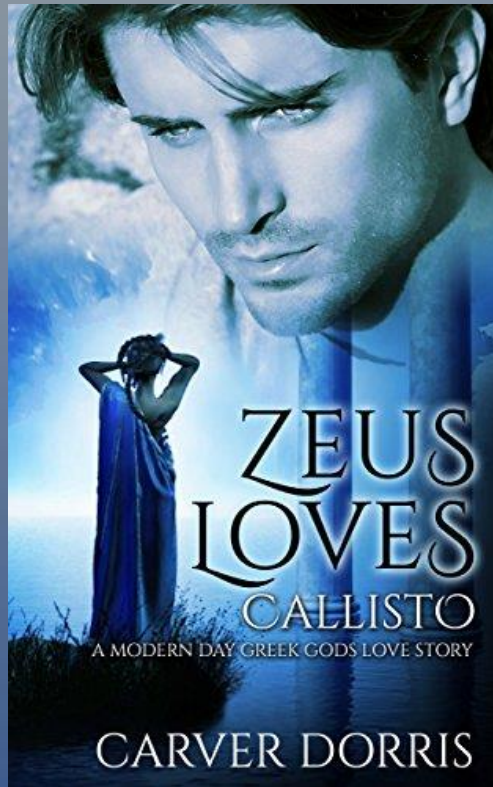


Classical Mythology

LLCU 316.010/080



The Age of Heroes:

Exam Outline

Ovid and the later Metamorphosis of Myth

- Honors writing assignment grades will be posted on Canvas by Monday (at the latest). They will be available to claim at the final exam.
- I'll be unmuting the marks for the in-class writing assignments in the next few days (with apologies for the e-mail notices!)
- Please check on Canvas to make sure that everything looks right in regards to your grades

Final In-class Writing Assignment:

Options:

1. What was your favorite myth/legend (or part of it) and why?
2. What myth/legend would you have liked to have heard more about and why?

*Reminder: these assignments will be returned to you at the final exam (if you'd like to keep them)

Exam Outline: Tuesday, May 22: 1-3 pm

- .Part 1 Multiple Choice ($30 \times 1 = 30$)
- .Similar to Exam 2
- .On material since last exam (and material we have covered in class)

Exam Outline

- .Part 2 Fill in the blank (20x1 + 2 bonus blanks)
- .Similar to Exam 2
- .Again, on material from last exam
- . Concentrate on those red names/words presented in the PowerPoints

Exam Outline

- .Part 3 Essay Question (1x25)

- .Choice of 2 – about 2 ½ pages, single-spaced

- .Here it where you can show your ability to synthesize the material (i.e. the bigger picture of what myths and legends are)

Possible Essay Questions:

(2 of these will be on the exam)

1. How do myths and legends change and/or how are they added to? (E.g. how much flexibility does an author have to alter or expand a story)
2. How are these myths and legends used in their social settings? For example, what are some of their functions (e.g. showing good/bad behavior)?
3. Why do these stories hold our attention? Why do they continue to be told?

Exam Outline

Suggestions:

.Concrete details/examples are important to support your argument. The more you give, the more marks I can award.

e.g. “Heroes often have unusual births.” (vague)
Heroes often have unusual births. For example, Perseus is conceived by Zeus in the form of golden rain.” (concrete)

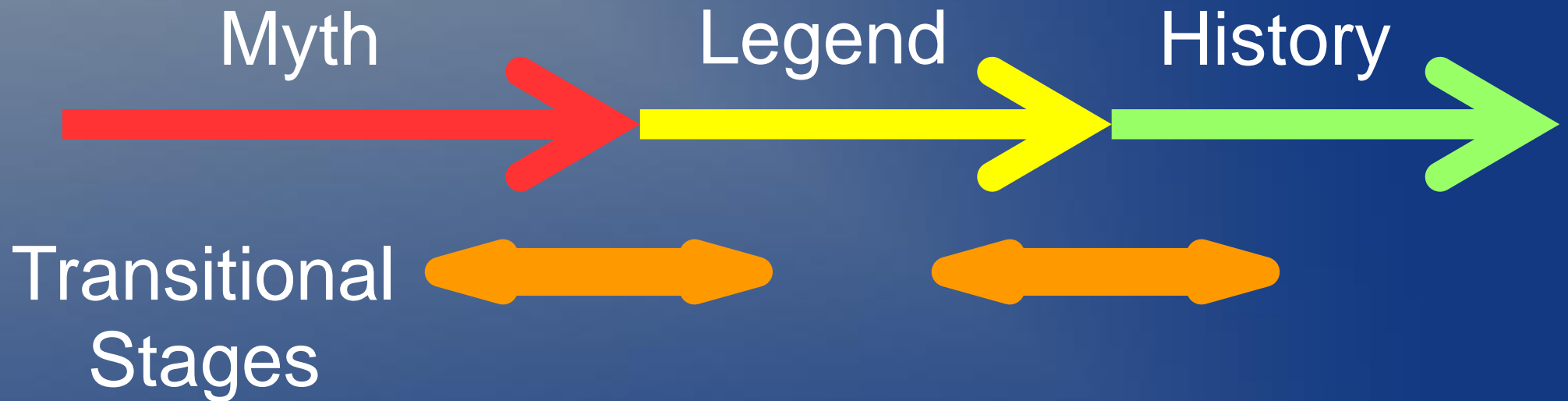
.Avoid retelling entire stories. Assume your reader is familiar with them, but remind him/her of the important points for your argument.

Exam Outline

Suggestions for review:

- .Again, www.classicalmythology.org provides a useful character glossary and other resources
- .Make your own list of major characters/events for each of the legends given
- . Reflect on broader themes we have talked about: how do these myths and legends fit together? How do they differ?

The Three Ages of Narratives



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Intellectual change:

- .Growing notions by the 7th century BCE (Greece) that the world could be understood through the observation of natural phenomena
- .i.e. gods were not *needed* to explain why things were the way they were

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Turmoil of the city states
(late 5th - 3rd cent. BCE):

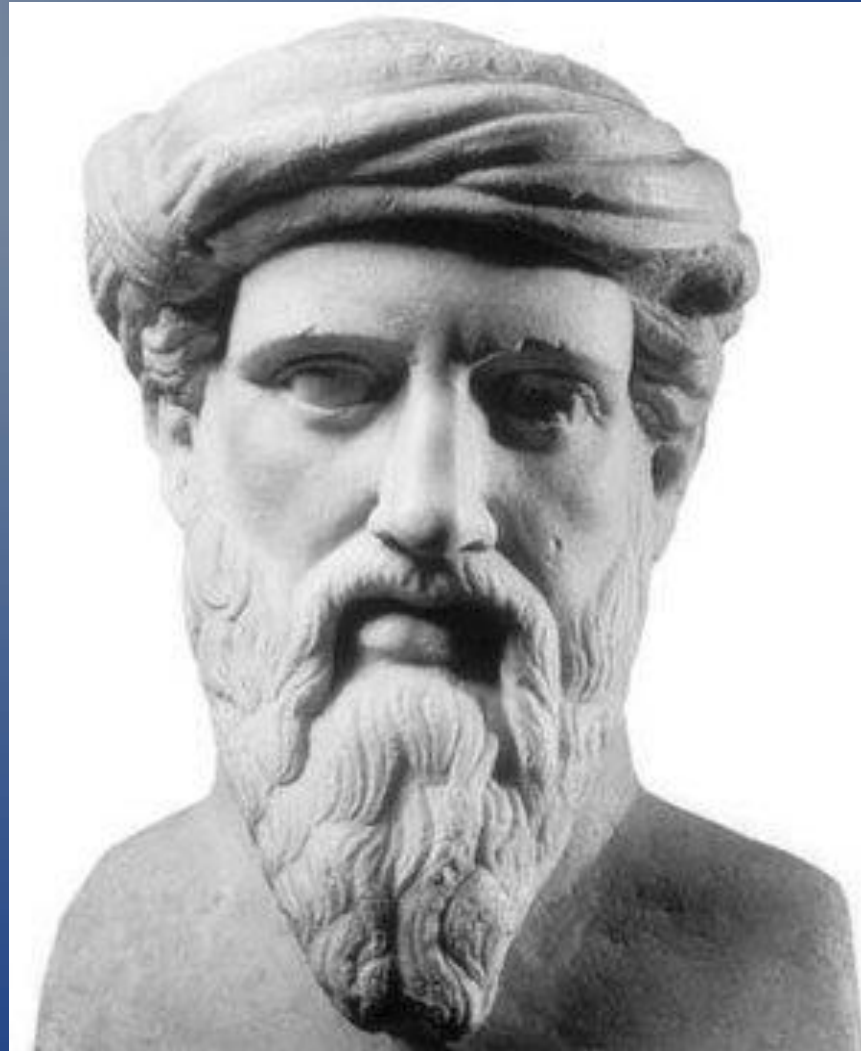
- War and political unrest diminished emphasis on state religions (why worship state gods if they cannot be there to support you?)
- Move to more private religious worship (e.g. cult practices)

Ovid and Myth in the Roman World



(43 BCE – 17/18 CE)

Ovid – *Metamorphoses* *Pythagoras*



ca. 570-495 BCE

Ovid – *Metamorphoses*

Pythagoras

- .Represents a turning-point in belief systems
- .On the boundary between legend and history
- .Aligns these ‘old’ myths with ‘reality’ through the new lens of scientific knowledge – changes can be understood by humans, they don’t have to be explained by the gods

Ovid – *Metamorphoses*

Pythagoras: Immorality of Eating Flesh

‘In the midst of such wealth of the earth...[you] behave like Cyclopes, inflicting sorry wounds with your cruel teeth.’

- Ways of “old” criticized
- Like the characters in his stories Ovid suggests that we as humans change (culturally)



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Aetiology of myth: Euhemerism (300 BCE)

- .Gods were once humans, who later underwent *apotheosis* (saw golden columns on an island describing this)
- .Greek gods early heroic men
- .Provided fodder for early Christians to use against pagans

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

- Myths as they are told are 'self-contradictory,' they just don't make sense (from a common-sense point of view)
- Myths started from puns on names, misunderstood metaphors, 'first inventors'

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

- Drako ('dragon') was a person's name (e.g. Jason and the golden fleece), so Taurus ('bull') could be another person's name
- Scylla and Pegasus were the names of ships; Hydra was a fortress
- The 'hollow' Trojan horse was a ravine where the Greeks hid

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

.Actaeon

Spent too
much on dogs



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

.Centaur

First to ride
horses



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

.Pandora

Invented new
'clay' makeup



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

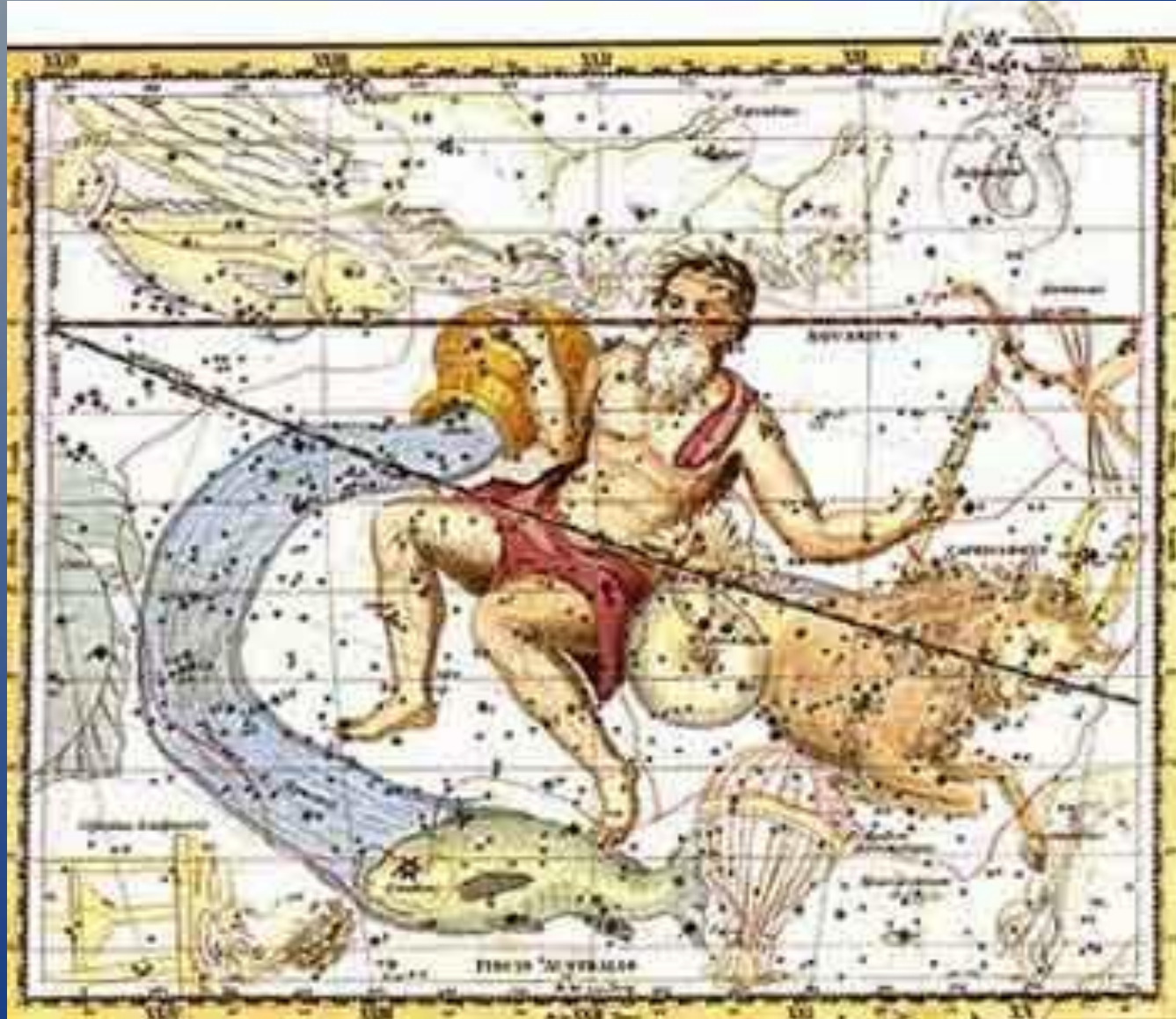
Palaephatus' *Incredible Tales* (?400 BCE)

- Atalanta and Callisto were eaten by animals, not changed into them
- Amazons were men dressed as women

Survival of Ancient Myth: Astronomy and later Christian Thought

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Astrology



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Astrology

E.g. Aratus' *Phaenomena* (3rd cent. BCE)

.Suggested place of gods in the heavens (could be seen)

.They were also understandable from observation

.This order *must* have something to do with us!

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Astrology

- .Observations of stars is accessible to anyone (egalitarian form of divination)
- .This, in part, led to its popularity, which was incredibly difficult to suppress
- .Early Christian writers in general reluctantly admitted such activity

St. Basil (ca. 329-379 CE)

The Transition from “Pagan” to “Christian”



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/04/Basil_of_Caesarea.jpg/220px-Basil_of_Caesarea.jpg

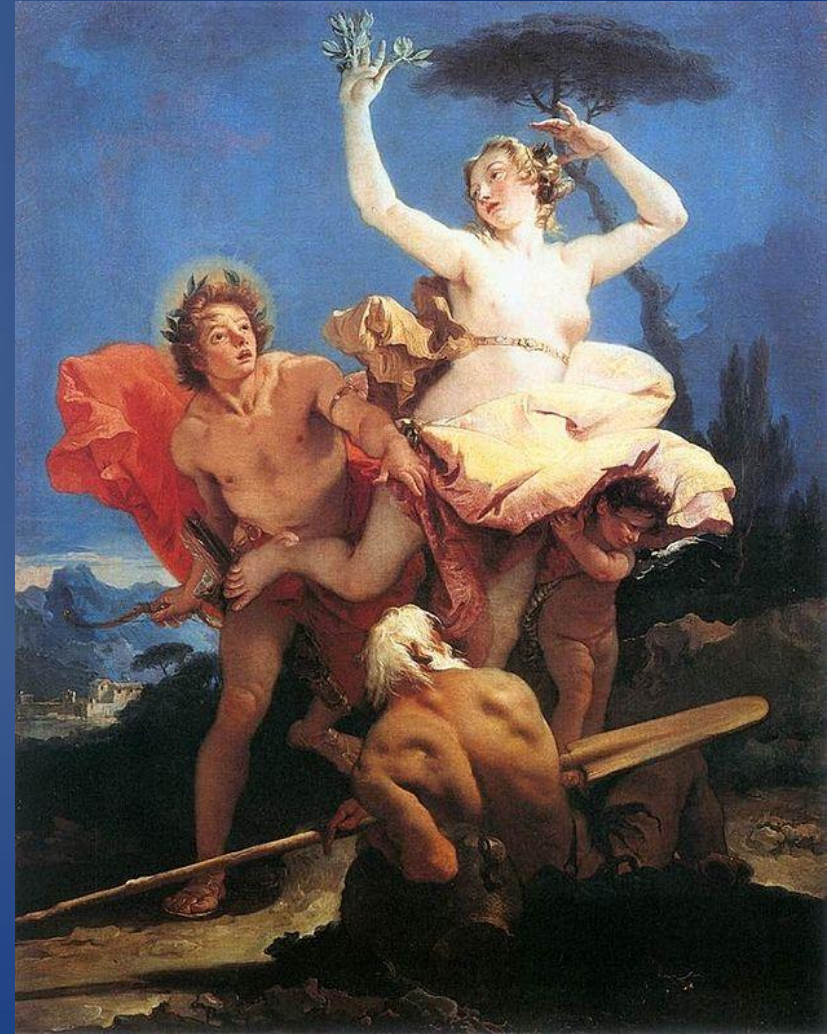
St. Basil on Proper Use of Greek Education

“Do not be surprised if to you, who go to school every day, and who, through their writings, associate with the learned men of old, I say that out of my own experience I have evolved something more useful. Now this is my counsel, that you should not unqualifiedly give over your minds to these men, as a ship is surrendered to the rudder, to follow whither they list, but that, while receiving whatever of value they have to offer, you yet recognize what it is wise to ignore. Accordingly, from this point on I shall take up and discuss the pagan writings, and how we are to discriminate among them.”

Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Daphne and Apollo

- An allegory for Christian chastity and temperance (Daphne) contrasting with “pagan” corruption (Apollo)



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Dionysus and Jesus: Allegory of Death and Rebirth



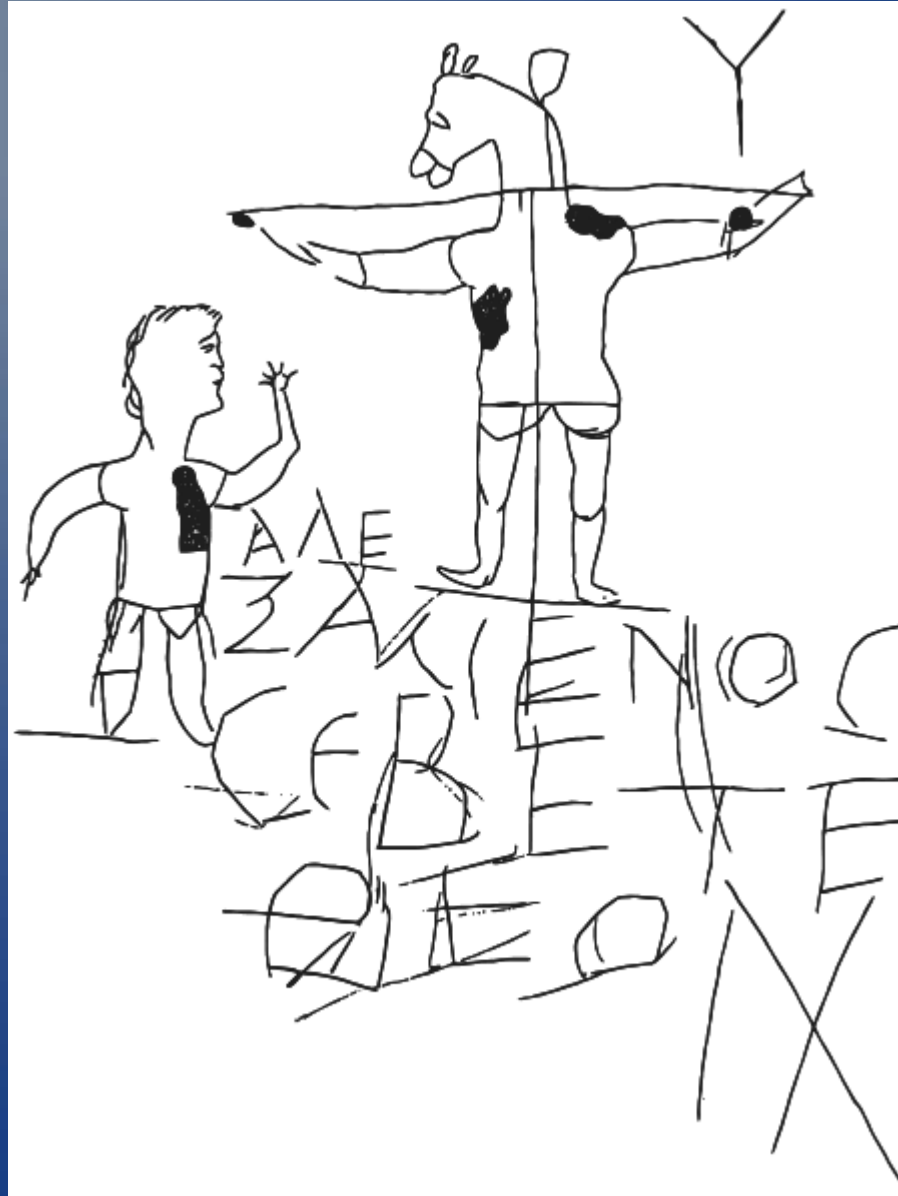
Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Dionysus and Jesus: Allegory of Death and Rebirth



Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Dionysus and Jesus

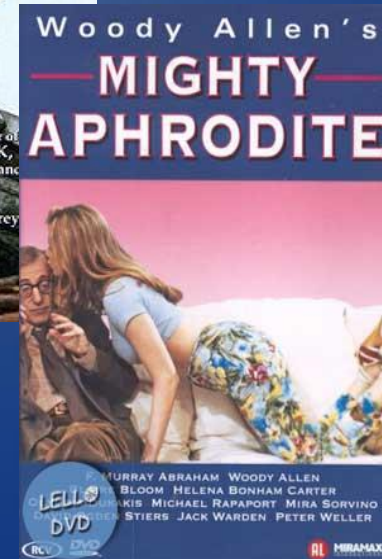
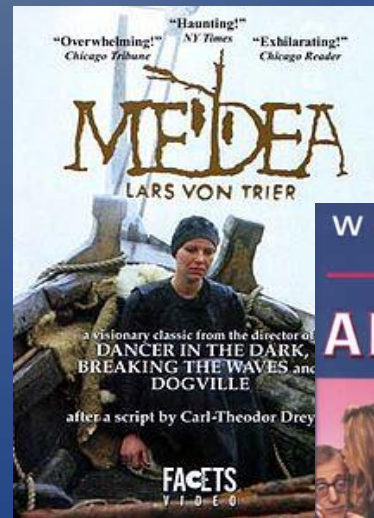
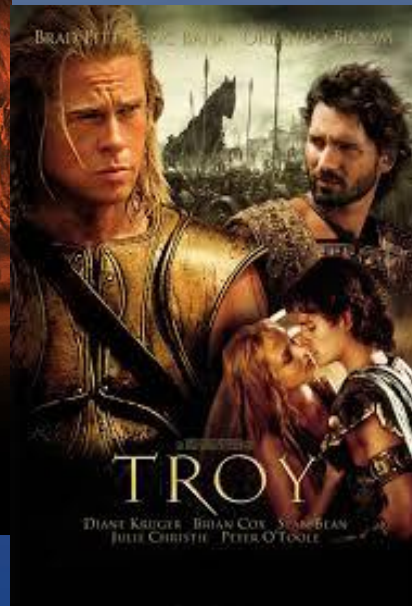
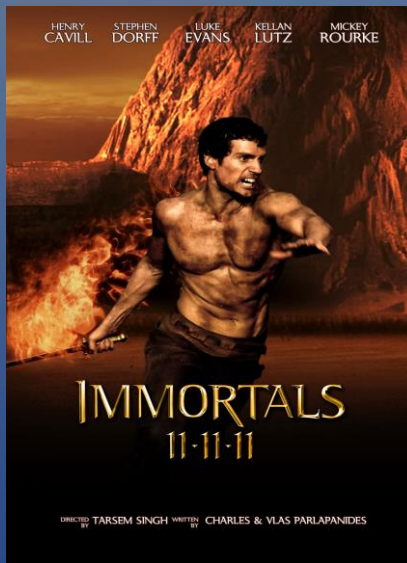
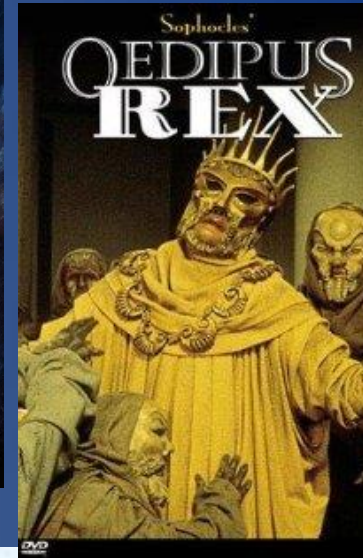
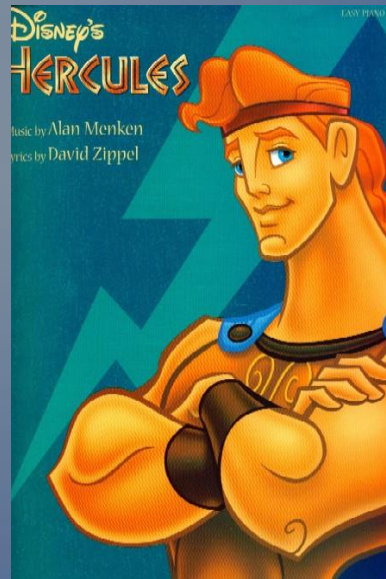


Changing Opinions Toward Myth

Pagan myth in literature:

- The pre-existing stories fascinated Christian authors – provided models for forming their own works
- Could be made suitable for a Christian audience if they remained only allegories
- Ensured continuation of myth in the later Western world

Modern Retellings



Conclusion: Myth and its Legacy



Conclusion: Myth and its Legacy



Thanks for a great class!

Parting thoughts

