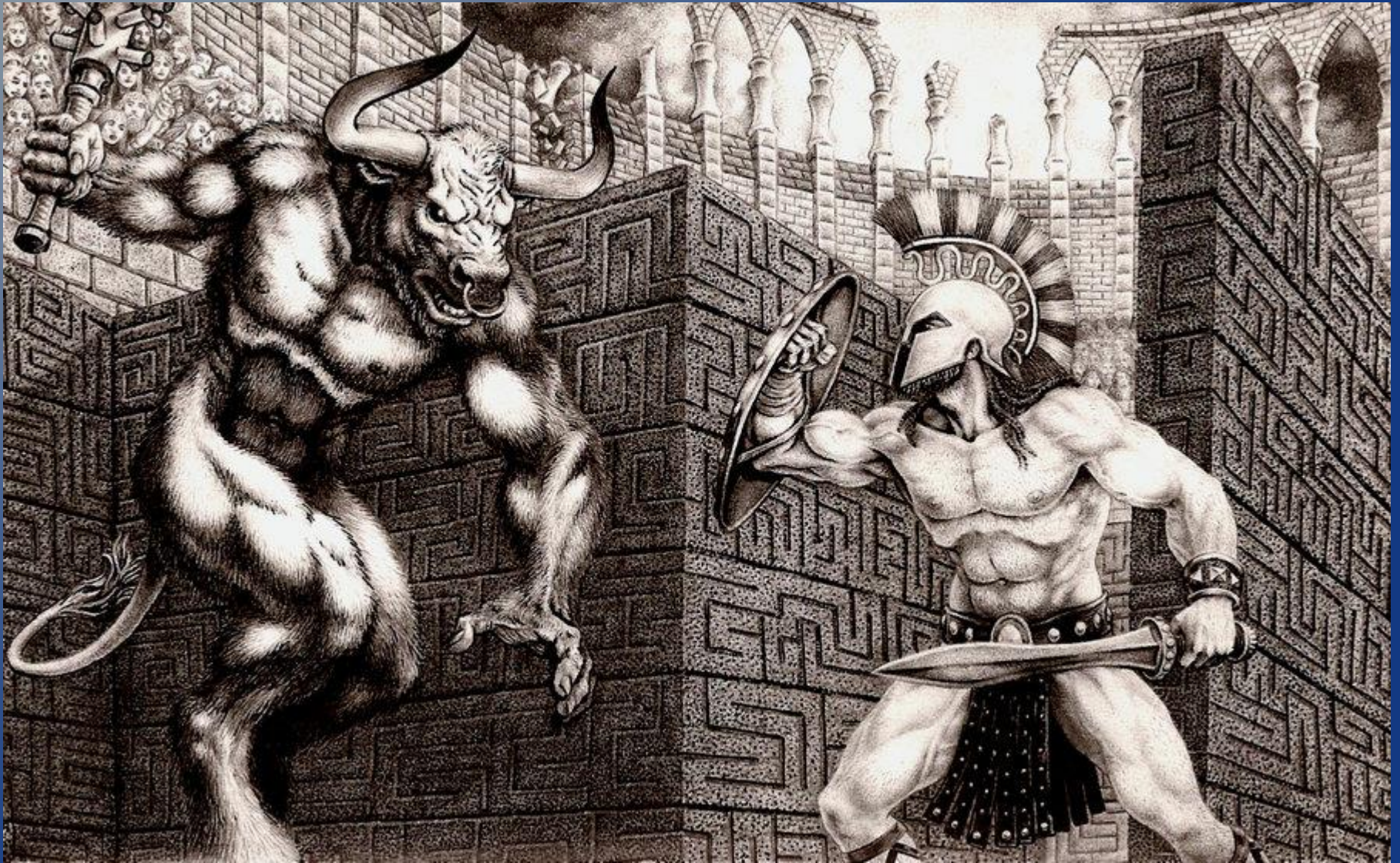


Classical Mythology

LLCU 316.010/080



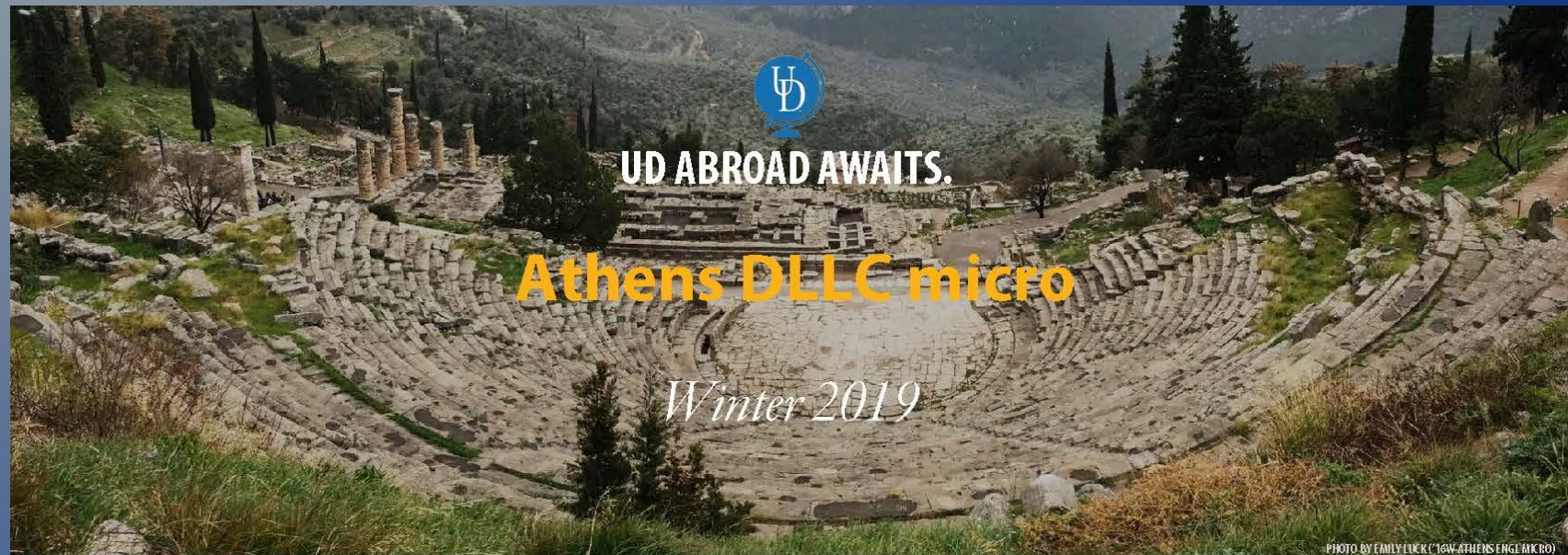
Class 16

Heroes of Athens: Theseus

Last Study Abroad Meeting

Monday, April 16: 3.30-4.30

Gore 310



EXPLORE COURSES:

LLCU 330:
Victors and Spoils
Competition in Ancient Greece

CONTACT YOUR FACULTY DIRECTOR:

TYSON SUKAVA
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sukava@udel.edu

APPLY NOW:

APPLICATION DUE
April 20, 2018
bit.ly/athensdllc19w

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Writing Assignment 2:

You are throwing a dinner party, and have the honor (?) of inviting two gods that we have discussed so far in class. Who would these be and why?

Legend of Athens:

Cecrops!



Legends of Athens:

Erichthonius: Born from Hephaestus and Athena (?)



Legends of Athens:

Erechtheus:

- Grandson of Erechthonius (so confusing!)
- Apparently fully human
- Under attack from the Eleusinians, he sacrificed his daughter to protect Athens
- Killed by Poseidon for killing the god's son, the Thracian Eumolpos.

Theseus: The Athenian George Washington

Theseus:

Son of **Aegeus** and Aethra:

- .Aegeus unable to produce male heir; consults oracle at Delphi (Travels to Troezen, gets drunk and spends the night with Aethra – Theseus produced)
- .Theseus' identity hidden from him
- .1st test of strength: lift up the rock covering his father's gifts: a sword and sandals
- .Leaves Troezen to claim his rightful place in Athens

Theseus:



<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/->

[II336i4RRso/UegQI4b0GWI/AAAAAAAAAY84/4IRflu-HBis/s1600/troezen.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-II336i4RRso/UegQI4b0GWI/AAAAAAAAAY84/4IRflu-HBis/s1600/troezen.jpg)

Theseus: His Six Labours



Theseus and Periphetes: The Club Bearer



Theseus and Sinis (Pithocampes): The “Pine Bender”



Theseus and Monster Sow (Phaea):



Theseus and Sciron: The Foot Washing Guy



Theseus and Cercyon: The Wrestler



Theseus and Procrustes: The Psycho



Theseus:

6 labours:

- .Periphetes (robber)
- .Sinis (Pithocampes) – robber
- .Monster sow – beast
- .Sciron (robber) – local hero
- .Cercyon (robber) – local hero of Eleusis
- .Procrustes (serial killer?)

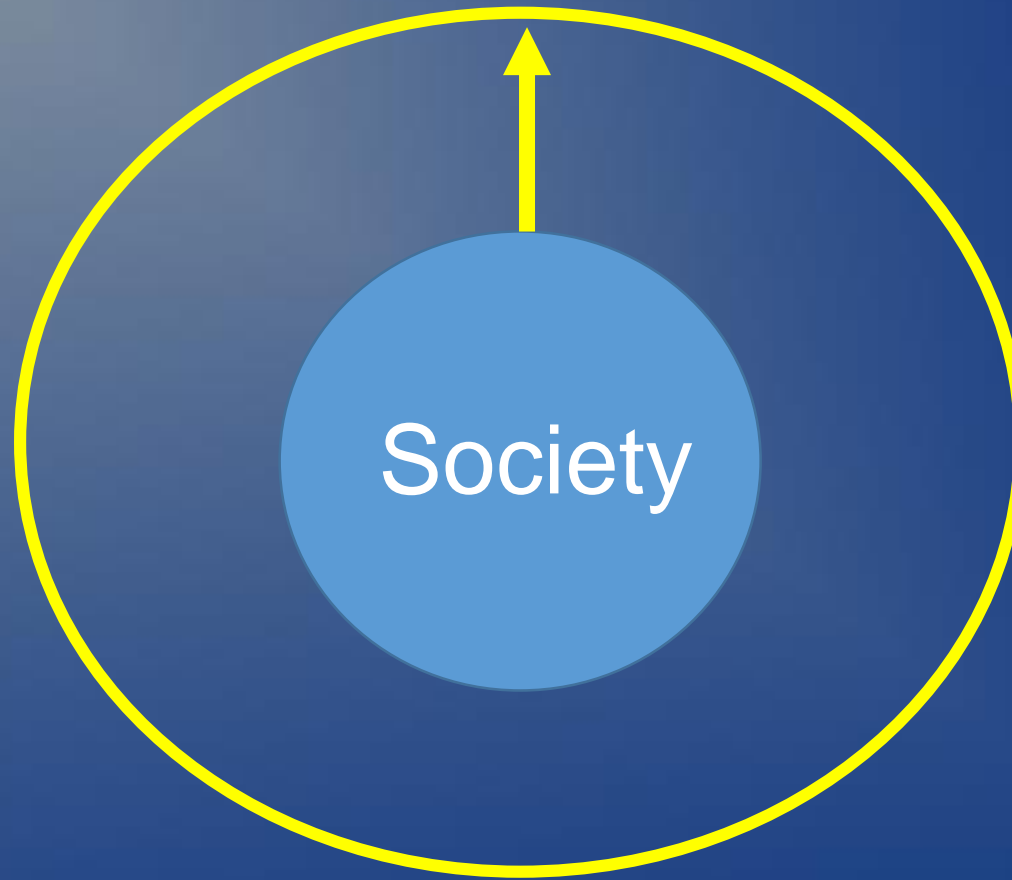
Theseus and the Minotaur: The Tributes



<http://img2.timeinc.net/people/i/2012/specials/hunger-games/top-ten/katniss-01-400.jpg>

The Hero's Struggle

A Hero: Exceptional, famous,
risk-taking



The Hero's Struggle

A Hero



Theseus and the Minotaur:

The birth of the **Minotaur**:

• **Minos** prayed to Poseidon for bull to sacrifice

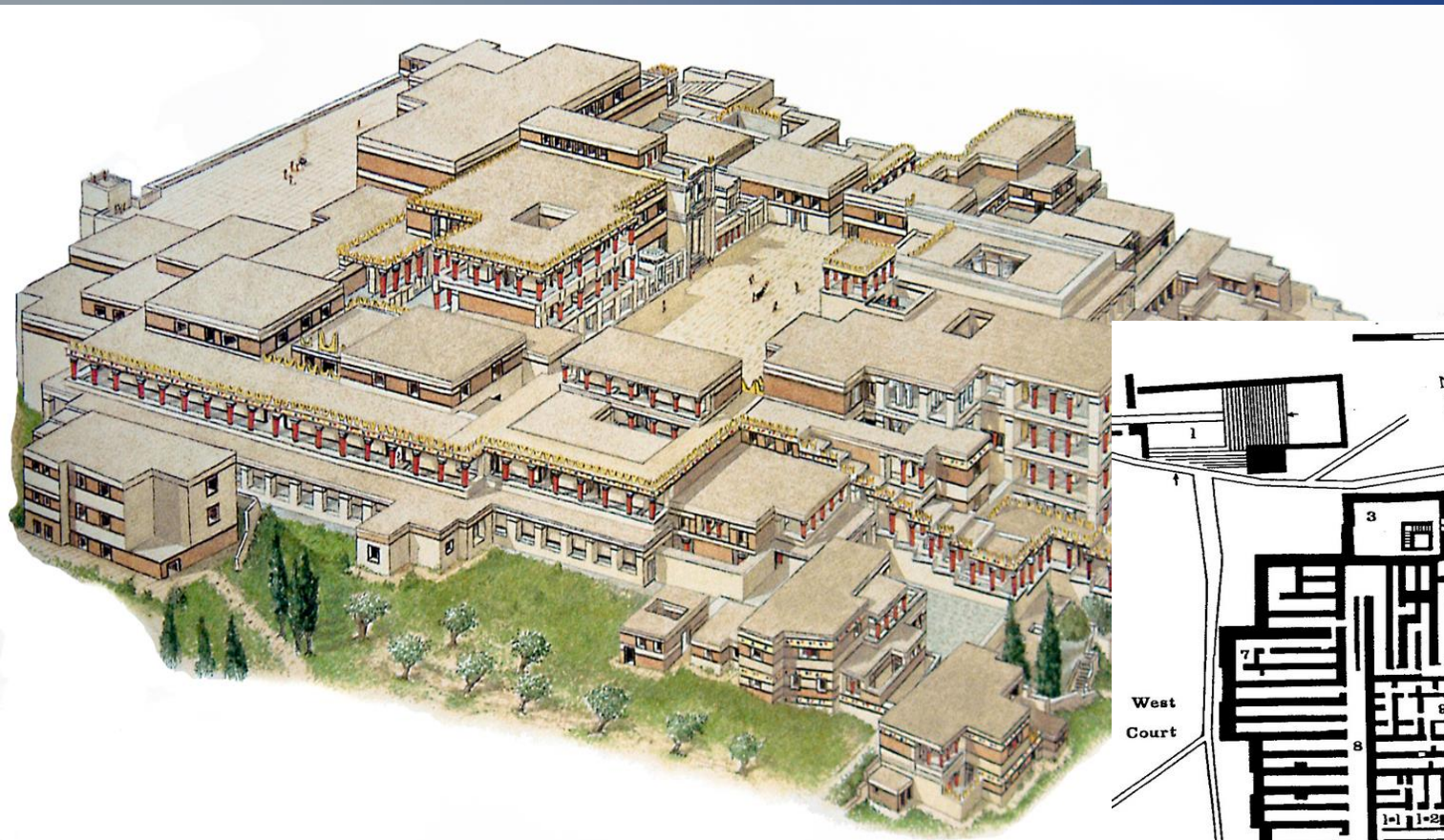


• **Pasiphae** (Minos' wife; mother of Phaedra) made to lust for the bull

• **Daedalus** (craftsman) developed a way for Pasiphae to satisfy her desires (the mechanical cow)

• The unnatural union produces the “Minotaur”

Theseus and the Minotaur: Palace at Knossos



Theseus and the Minotaur: Coins from Crete “Advertising” Labrynth



Theseus and the Minotaur:

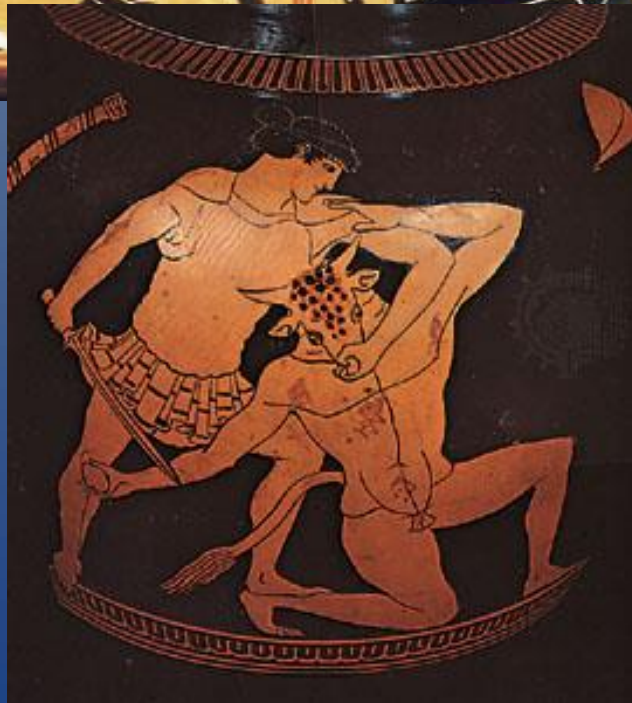
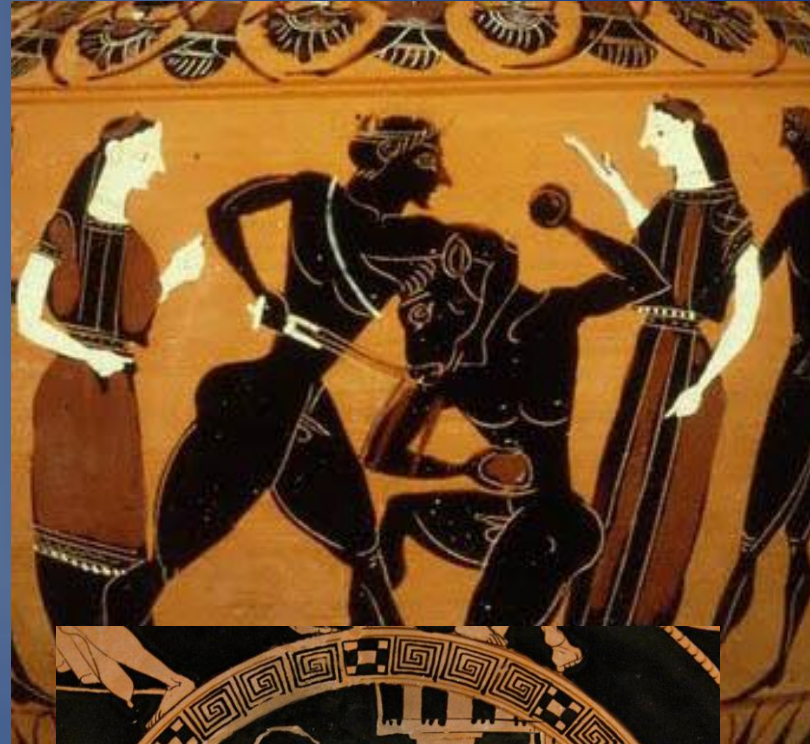
- **Theseus** assisted by **Ariadne** (clue/wreath?)

- Abandons her on Naxos (hero to remain single)

- Returns to Athens (**Aegeus**' death)
 - Theseus to put up a white sail on his ship if it's successful
 - He forgets, and his father thinks that his son has been killed; jumps into the sea (thence forth called the "Aegean Sea")



Theseus and the Minotaur:



Theseus as King: Later Exploits

Establishing of order:

- .Paired with **Heracles** to defeat Amazons
- .Takes Amazon queen Antiope as concubine (producing Hippolytus)
- .Unifies Attica – region of Athens (*synoecism*)
- .Establishes Isthmian games (Heracles founded Olympic Games)

Theseus and Pirithous:

Against the Centaurs:

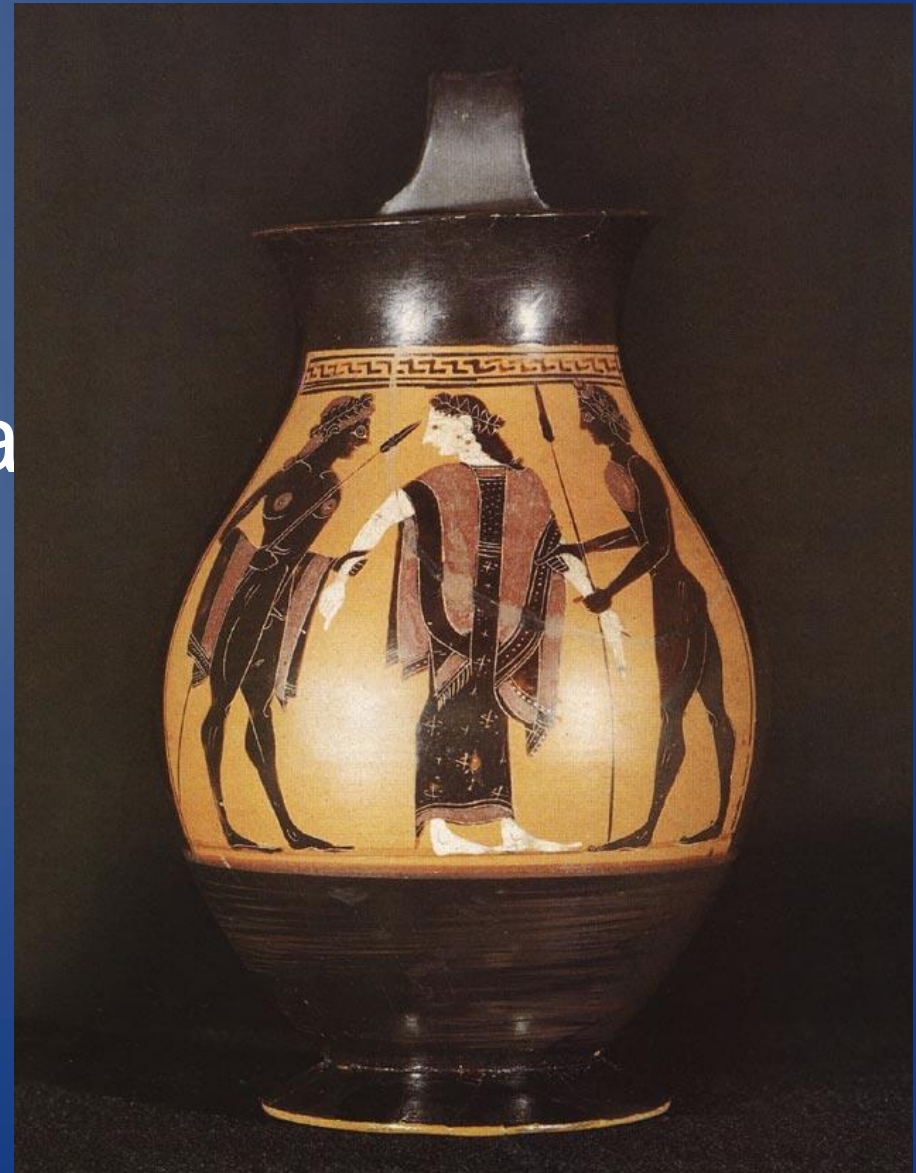
- Theseus attended a wedding of Pirithous
- **Centaurs** crashed the party and began assaulting people
- Theseus and Pirithous fought together
To defeat them



Theseus and Pirithous: Kidnapping Zeus' Daughters

Abduction of **Helen**:

- for Theseus
- The two came to Sparta and kidnapped the young Helen (13 years old)
- Planned to keep her in Athens until she was of age



Theseus and Pirithous:

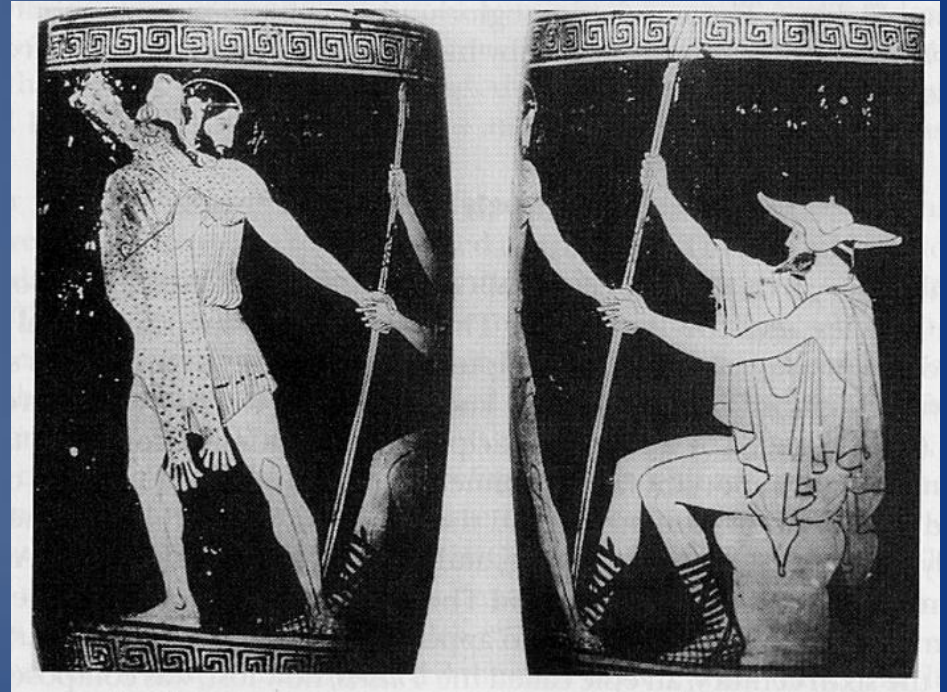
Abduction of Persephone (for Pirithous):



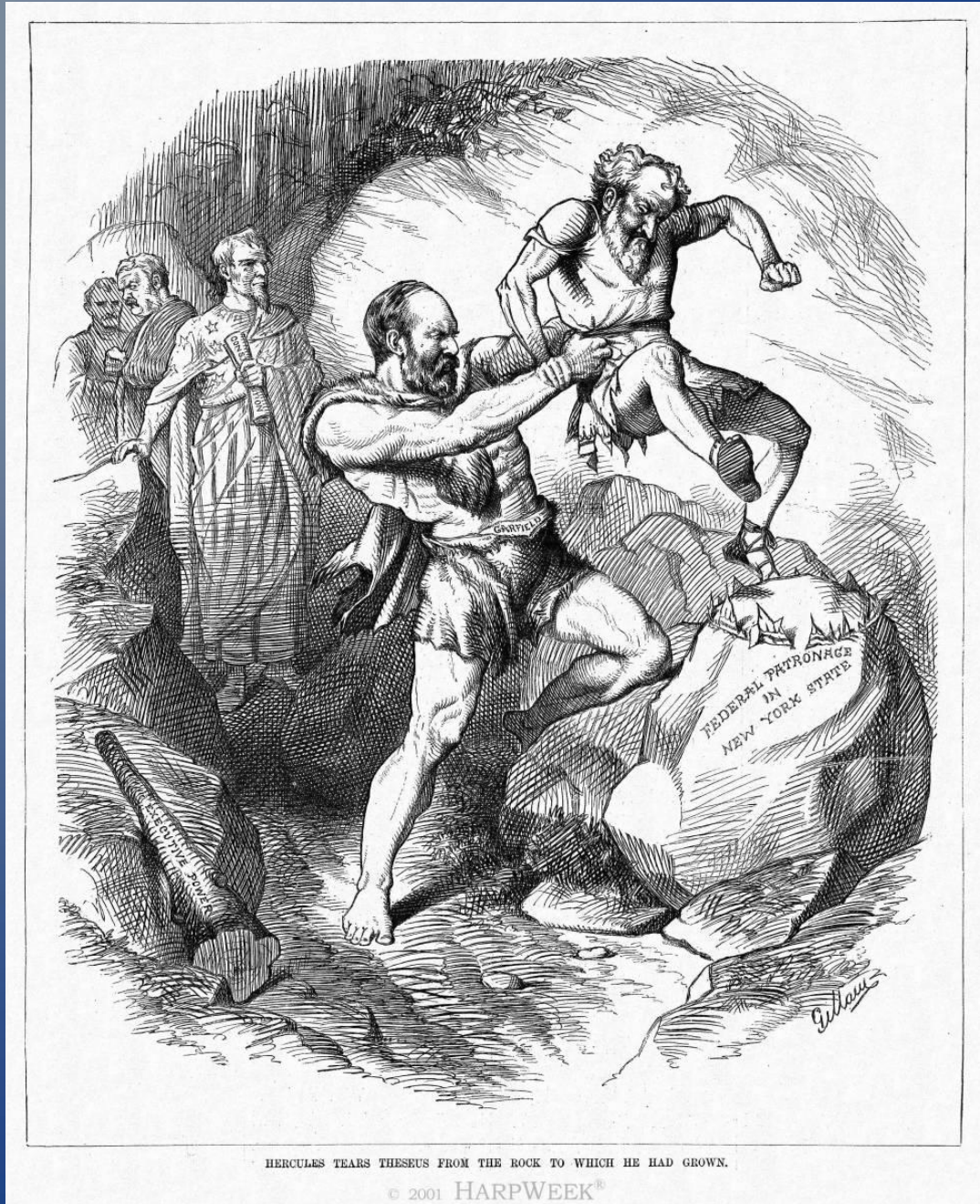
Theseus and Pirithous:

Abduction of Persephone:

- Pirithous chose Persephone (in some accounts, the daughter of Zeus)
- They went to the Underworld and were greeted kindly; but were fastened to chairs for eternity
- Heracles comes down and saves Theseus, but can't save Pirithous



Heracles Lifting Theseus in Underworld:



Theseus' Death

- .Theseus continues to rule in Athens
- .Has son Hippolytus, marries Phaedra
- .Goes to the island of Skyros to claim an old inheritance
- .While there, the jealous king pushes Theseus off a cliff to his death

