

Classics 102

Fall 2014

MWF 1:15-2:20

Seney Hall 322

Instructor: Dr. Emlen Smith

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Office: Language Hall 108

Office Hours: Wed 2:30-3:30

### Classical Mythology

This course is an exploration of classical mythology through Greco-Roman literature. We will be reading texts written in Greek and Latin between the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. and the 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E. and considering the ways they express the societal values, hopes, fears, and prejudices of the cultures that produced them, as well as the ways the same stories have been reused and altered by later authors and artists.

### Texts:

(all available at the university bookstore)

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald

Sophocles, *Sophocles I*, trans. David Grene and Richmond Lattimore

Euripides, *Medea*, trans. Michael Collier and Georgia Machemer

Euripides, *The Complete Euripides, Volume IV*, ed. Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro

Seneca, *Six Tragedies*, trans. Emily Wilson

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. Charles Martin

### Attendance:

Because class discussion is central to this course, it is vital that you come to class, on time, having carefully read the assigned text(s). Although any absence is likely to negatively impact your success in this class, you may miss up to *three* meetings without an automatic penalty to your attendance grade. For each additional missed class, you will lose *five* points from your attendance grade for the semester (e.g. if you miss five classes total, your attendance grade for the semester will be 90/100). Two classes where you arrive late or unprepared will be equivalent to an absence. If you miss class **for any reason**, you may make up for your absence by submitting, within a week of the day of your absence, a 500-800-word essay on a subject related to the relevant meeting. If you miss a large number of class meetings, or if you are for some reason unable to complete the make-up essay within a week of a missed meeting, please contact me.

### Discussion Board:

Each week, no later than Saturday, each student should post at least once to that week's forum in the discussion board on this course's Courseweb site. Your post may be a (respectful) response to another student's post, or may start a new thread. In either case, you should be either asking a question or making a comment about something you noticed in the reading assigned for the **upcoming** week's class. You might, for example, say what you found surprising in the reading, ask about something difficult to understand or an apparent contradiction, point out a connection with readings from earlier in the semester, or mention something you've

learned outside this class that seems relevant. Posts will be graded only as complete/incomplete, with full credit given for any post relevant to the assigned material.

#### Papers:

Three short (600-900 word) papers will be required during the semester. Each paper should focus on a specific topic, make a clear and convincing argument, and discuss specific evidence from the texts read in class. Possible paper topics will be provided by the instructor, but students may also come up with their own topics.

#### Exams:

This course will have a midterm and a final exam. Each will involve identifying and discussing passages from the texts discussed in class, as well as answering more general questions with evidence drawn from those texts.

#### Grading:

Attendance: 10%

Discussion board: 10%

Papers: 30% (10% each)

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

#### Schedule

W 8/27: Introduction: What is Classical Mythology? (what is Classics? What is mythology?)

F 8/29: *Odyssey*, Book 1

M 9/1: **LABOR DAY**

W 9/3: *Odyssey*, 2-5

F 9/5: *Odyssey*, 6-8

M 9/8: *Odyssey*, 9-11

W 9/10: *Odyssey* 12-13

F 9/12: *Odyssey* 14-16

M 9/15: *Odyssey* 17-19

W 9/17: *Odyssey* 20-22

F 9/19: *Odyssey* 23-24

M 9/22: Ovid, *Heroides* 1 (handout)

W 9/24: Sophocles, *Oedipus*

F 9/26: Sophocles, *Oedipus*

M 9/29: Sophocles, *Oedipus*

W 10/1: Sigmund Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams* (handout)

F 10/3: Euripides, *Medea*

M 10/6: Euripides, *Medea*

W 10/8: Euripides, *Medea*

F 10/10: Aristotle, *Poetics* (handout)

M 10/13: **FALL BREAK**

W 10/15: Euripides, *Bacchae*

F 10/17: Euripides, *Bacchae*

M 10/20: Euripides, *Bacchae*

W 10/22: Review

F 10/24: MIDTERM EXAM

M 10/27: Seneca, *Hercules Furens*

W 10/29: Seneca, *Hercules Furens*

F 10/31: Seneca, *Hercules Furens*

M 11/3: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1

W 11/5: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 2

F 11/7: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 3

M 11/10: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 4-5

W 11/12: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 6

F 11/14: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 7

M 11/17: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 8-9

W 11/19: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 10

F 11/21: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 11

M 11/24: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 12

W 11/26: **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

F 11/28: **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

M 12/1: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 13-14

W 12/3: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 15

F 12/5: The *Metamorphoses* and myth

M 12/8: lesser-known versions of myths (handout)