

Mythological Focus

For my reception project, I reworked the myths of the Wedding of Peleus and Thetis and the Judgment of Paris (Lecture 7) through the lens of modern corporate espionage. Titled "Olympus Leaks," the project takes the form of a "hacked" database containing confidential emails, chat logs, and HR incident reports that expose the administrative shortcomings responsible for the outbreak of the war.

Engagement with Course Content

The project satirizes the petty and transactional gods of Olympus, who are depicted not as high beings but as dysfunctional corporate executives. Here's the breakdown of the specific documents and how it relates to our course content:

- **Succession Anxiety:** The initial email regarding the "merger" (wedding) of Thetis and Peleus explicitly references Zeus's fear of the prophecy that Thetis's son would be "stronger than his father" (Lecture 7). This casts the marriage not as a wedding event, but as a risk management strategy to protect Zeus's position as CEO.
- **Xenia (Guest-Host Friendship):** The exclusion of Eris from the event is framed as a "security oversight", violating the social norms of reciprocity. Furthermore, the HR "Risk Assessment" identifies Paris's acceptance of Helen not merely as an act of lust, but as a violation of *Xenia*, noting that acquiring the "Helen asset" requires violating the hospitality of Menelaus in Sparta.
- **Aristocratic Values:** The "Slack" chat log and the Bribe Table highlight the gods' obsession with *Timé* (Honor) and status. By translating Athena's offer of wisdom into "Market Strategy" and Hera's offer of power into "Regional Management," I highlight how the gods view human conflict as a way to increase their own portfolio of influence.

Creative Decisions & Rationale

I chose to build an interactive website because, as a Computer Science student, I see strong parallels between mythology and code: both are systems governed by strict logic (Fate/Prophecy) that crash when "users" (heroes) try to bypass the rules (Hubris). By swapping out epic poetry for sterile emails, I wanted to strip away the glamour and show the gods for what they really are: cold, calculating, and cruel.

To bridge the gap between the satire and the academic material, I created the "Hermes Mode" toggle. This feature overlays "handwritten" notes onto the documents, explicitly decoding the corporate jargon back into mythological terms (e.g., translating "Hostile Takeover" to "War").

This allows the audience to engage with the myth on two levels: the immersive narrative and the analytical reception.

Obstacles and Resolutions

A major challenge was conveying the gravity of the Trojan War through such a sterile medium. Corporate language is quite dehumanizing, which risks trivializing the suffering of the war. I overcame this by using the "Risk Assessment" section of the HR form to quantify the war as a "10-year fiscal siege," emphasizing the tragedy that human lives are merely items to the gods. This clash between the horrifying reality of the war and the gods' cold, corporate indifference really shows the tragic nature of the *Iliad*