

CLA 204 H1F

INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

Instructor: Susan Dunning

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Office hours: W, 3–5 pm

Office location: LI 124

Class time: MWF 1–3 pm

Class location: AH 100

Course websites: portal.utoronto.ca (Blackboard)

Course Goals

This course will provide you with an introduction to the most important myths from the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. We will focus especially on myths in action: how myths were transmitted, performed, and changed over time, and the role that these myths played in shaping the societies that had created and adapted them. There will also be an introduction to the reception of classical myths in later Western cultures.

Grading

Class participation (attendance, preparation, participation)	10%
Commentary assignments (6 total)	15%
Midterm exam	15%
In-class essay	25%
Final exam (date TBA)	35%
Total	100%

Assignments

Class participation: You are encouraged and expected to participate actively in the classroom. Participation marks will be based on: attendance, timeliness, completion of assigned readings, etc., and readiness to respond when called upon.

Commentary assignments: Every week, a few of the assigned readings will be specially marked on the Perseids website as readings for you to comment upon, comparing and contrasting versions of the same myth as told by different authors, in different historical contexts. Sometimes images will be provided as part of the assignments, as well. For each assignment, questions to guide your analysis will be posted in a folder labelled “Commentary Assignments” on Blackboard. Each assignment should be 400–500 words in length, submitted via the Perseids website. All commentary assignments are due online on the Monday of the following week before the start of class (1 pm).

Midterm and final examinations: The midterm will be held on Friday, May 30, during the normal class time. The final exam will be held during the exam period, June 23–27, at a date to be announced. The questions may consist of short answers, multiple choice, passage identification and commentary, image identification and commentary, and longer responses.

In-class essay: The in-class essay will be held on Friday, June 13, from 1–2 pm (one hour shorter than the normal class time). For this essay, you will respond to a question provided in advance in approximately 2–3 pages. You may make outlines and drafts for this essay in advance, but you may not bring them to the essay writing period itself: no notes or aids will be allowed for this evaluation.

Missed/late assignments and tests: Tests and journal assignments may be excused (but not retaken or handed in late) only in cases of medical or personal emergencies, or for religious obligations. In all cases, proper documentation needs to be provided within one week in order for the instructor to excuse the absence. The weight of the missed quiz, assignment, or test will be added to the weight of the next such item on the schedule. Assignments turned in late cannot be accepted or graded.

Textbooks and Resources

Website: This course will rely on **two** main websites. The first and most important is our **Perseids site**, where all assigned readings will be posted, and where you will also submit your commentary assignments: <http://sosol.perseids.org/syllabiz/html/torcla204h1f.html#group2_level1>. You will be able to log in using your email address from Google, AOL, Yahoo, or OpenID *only*. The second course website is found on **Blackboard**, which may be accessed via the UT Portal login page: <portal.utoronto.ca>. (If you have not used your UTORid before, see utorid.utoronto.ca for information on activation and setting your password.) Login with your UTORid and password and look for this course under the My Courses box on the right. Please check Blackboard on a regular basis for important announcements, supplementary materials, and marks. There is no assigned textbook for this course.

Texts for reference (on hold at Robarts, *not* required for you to purchase):

Classical Mythology, by Mark P.O. Morford, Robert J. Lenardon, and Michael Sham, 9th edition.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-19-539770-3.

Classical Myth, by Barry B. Powell, 6th edition. New York: Pearson, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-13-606171-7.

Important Information

Course email: You must use your university email address for correspondence in this course; the instructor is unable to respond to emails sent from other addresses. (Please be aware that if your U of T email is forwarded to another account, some messages from the instructor may be filtered out as spam or junk.) Please be sure to include your full name and the course title in your email message. The instructor will aim to reply to emails within forty-eight hours on weekdays, but this may not always be possible.

Meetings: Everyone is welcome to meet with the instructor during office hours or contact her through email to discuss any questions or concerns. If you are encountering difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor for assistance. The instructor is unable to give private tutorials to individuals.

Accessibility Services: Information on accommodations for disabilities or accessibility concerns is available from Accessibility Services at accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Important dates:

Exam period: June 23–27

Course Schedule

NB: Commentary assignments texts/images are highlighted in yellow.

Class	Date	Assigned Reading
Week 1		
1	5/12	Myths: definitions, sources, and methods Readings: N/A
2	5/14	Greek and Roman civilization and myth Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 1–35 [Muses] Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 886–962 [Olympian gods] Apollodorus, <i>Epitome</i> 3.1–22, 3.28–5.23 [Trojan War] Euripides, <i>Hippolytus</i> 1–28, 936–980, 1283–1466 Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 7.761–782 [Hippolytus] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 15.479–551 [Hippolytus] Horace, <i>Odes</i> 4.7 [Hippolytus] [Blackboard]
3	5/16	Creation myths Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 104–239, 371–506 [creation] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1.1–162 [creation] Pindar <i>Olympian Ode</i> 9.35–50 [Deucalion] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1.253–415 [Deucalion] Bible, <i>Genesis</i> 6–8 [Flood]
Week 2		
	5/19	Victoria Day: No class
4	5/21	Myth in oral and literary traditions Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 35–103 Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 8.15–110 [Demodocus]
5	5/23	Myth and genre Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 24.596–642 [Niobe] Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> 801–882 [Niobe] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 6.146–312 [Niobe]
Week 3		
6	5/26	Myth and the natural world <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 31 to Helios Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1.746–2.343 [Phaethon] Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 4.351–470 [Proteus] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 3.337–508 [Echo and Narcissus] <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 19 to Pan Image of Pan from Herculaneum [Blackboard] <i>Hymn to Pan</i> from Epidauros IG IV ² 1 130 [Blackboard]
7	5/28	Myth and philosophy Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 189c–193 [Aristophanes' speech] Lucretius, <i>De Rerum Natura</i> 1.1–49 [hymn to Venus] Xenophanes [Blackboard] Euhemerus [Blackboard]
	5/30	Midterm Exam

Week 4		
8	6/2	Women in myth Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 565–616 [Pandora] Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 885–900, 929a–929t [Athena] <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 28 to Athena <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 5 to Aphrodite Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 10.243–297 [Pygmalion and Galatea] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 3.138–250 [Diana and Actaeon] Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> 376–525 [speech before Creon] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1.452–566 [Apollo and Daphne] Euripides, <i>Ion</i> 1–81, 859–922 [Apollo and Creusa] Apollodorus, 1.9.16, 1.9.23–28 [Medea]
9	6/4	Founding myths <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 3 to Pythian Apollo Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i> 1–33 [Delphic oracle] Plutarch, <i>Theseus</i> 1.2–2.2, 24.1–25.3, 34.1–36.2 Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 2.833–end [Jupiter and Europa] Livy, <i>Ab Urbe Condita</i> 1.1–4, 1.6.3–1.7.3 [Aeneas, Romulus] Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 1.1–33, 6.756–892 [Aeneas] Ennius [Romulus and Remus] [Blackboard]
10	6/6	Religion and myth <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 2 to Demeter Catullus <i>Carmen</i> 63 [Cybele] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 5.341–571 [Ceres and Proserpina] <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 3 to Delian Apollo Vergil, <i>Georgics</i> 4.453–527 [Orpheus] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 10.1–85 [Orpheus] Orphic tablet [Blackboard] Dionysius of Halicarnassus, <i>Roman Antiquities</i> 4.62 [Sibylline books] [Blackboard] Valerius Maximus 2.4.5 [Ludi Saeculares] [Blackboard] Zosimus [Ludi Saeculares] [Blackboard]
Week 5		
11	6/9	Gods in myth: defining divinity Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 507–569 [Prometheus] Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</i> 1–113, 196–243 [binding scene] <i>Homeric Hymn</i> 7 to Dionysus Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i> 1–63, 1043–1152 [Dionysus tells his story] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 3.509–end [Bacchus and Pentheus] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 15.622–744 [Aesculapius in Rome] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 14.581–608 [deification of Aeneas]
12	6/11	Mortals in myth: defining humanity Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 24.468–670 [Achilles and Priam] Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 5.1–227 [Calypso and Odysseus] Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 4.238–392, 4.630–674, 6.426–476 [Aeneas and Dido] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 6.1–145 [Athena and Arachne]

		Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 8.612–727 [Baucis and Philemon] Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 11.20–50, 465–504, 567–640 [Underworld] Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i> 64–177, 276–396 [Orestes and Furies] Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i> 300–407, 1110–1185, 1223–1366 [recognition scene]
	5/13	In-class Essay
Week 6		
13	6/16	Mythical monsters Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 9.116–536 [Cyclops] Plutarch, <i>Theseus</i> 15.1–22.1 [Minotaur] Pindar, <i>Pythian Ode</i> 12 [Gorgon] Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 12.201–264 [Scylla and Charybdis] Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 3.410–440, 675–691 [Scylla and Charybdis] Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 6.150–184 [Chimaera] Pindar, <i>Olympian Ode</i> 13 [Chimaera] Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9.538–549 [Calydonian Boar] Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 8.264–444 [Calydonian Boar] Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</i> 343–378 [Typhon]
14	6/18	Ancient and medieval reception of myth Plutarch, <i>De Defectu Oraculorum</i> 1, 17 Callimachus [Blackboard] Plautus [Blackboard] Martianus Cappella [Blackboard] Dante [Blackboard] Sir Orfeo [Blackboard]
15	6/20	Renaissance and modern reception of myth All readings posted to Blackboard. Commentary assignment guidelines for this week will be posted on Blackboard.