Classics 148: Greek and Roman Mythology (11892)   Fall 2012

MWF 12:00-12:50 PM in Budig 130

Professor Pamela Gordon

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Walk-in Office Hours:
1:15-3:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Also available by appointment, most days.

Office Hours for the Graduate Teaching Assistants are posted on Blackboard.

Course Description and Goals: This course is an introduction to ancient Greek and Roman myths and their contexts in Greek and Roman culture. The emphasis is on major works of literature (mostly Greek), with a secondary focus on divinities and myths as they appear in Greek and Roman art. As a result of this course, you should be able to:

• recall the plots and characters of major ancient Greek and Roman myths
• explain why there may be many versions of each myth
• recognize major gods, goddesses, heroes, and heroines as they appear in ancient art
• recall the basic content of each primary source in the reading list for this course
• recall a basic timeline that includes approximate dates of the assigned texts
• describe salient characteristics of major genres of ancient literature
• describe some connections between mythology and ancient religion
• describe how Greeks and Romans viewed myth (as blasphemy, as history, as allegory, etc.)
• use specialized vocabulary, such as “allegorical,” “anthropomorphic,” “Attic red-figure,” “attribute” “autochthony,” “bard,” “cultural,” “eclectism,” “epic,” “etiological myth,” “Etruscan,” “euhemerist,” “foundation myth,” “hero cult,” “iconography,” “Linear B,” “Mycenaean,” “oral poetry,” “pantheon,” “polytheistic,” “tragedy”
• describe how Roman culture imported and adapted aspects of Greek mythology and religion, intertwining Greek with non-Greek material
• articulate your opinions about the reinterpretation of Greek tragedies in modern film
• describe how the Greeks and Romans used myths to represent and examine human desires, needs, and conflicts
• articulate an opinion about why the Greek and Roman myths and literary texts can be relevant today, particularly as we struggle to develop self-understanding, deal with conflict, and face adversity.

This course also has a global studies component: Please learn to find on a map: Athens, the Black Sea, Crete, the Cyclades, Cyprus, Egypt, Carthage, the Peloponnesus, Rome, Sicily, Troy, and Tuscany. We also hope you will develop an appreciation for international film, and a better understanding of the history of museums and the current controversies over the repatriation of antiquities.

Required Textbooks


There will also be required readings in the Oxford Classical Dictionary (= OCD on syllabus) (Source: Oxford digital reference shelf) KU logon & password required. If you would like to read hard copy, the 3rd edition of the OCD is available at Watson Library and in the Classics seminar room. Call Number: DE5 .O9 1999
Recordings of *The Essential Homer*: You may supplement your reading by listening to Lombardo's recordings of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, available from the Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center (EGARC). These recordings do not include all of the assigned readings in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, but they provide an excellent survey. EGARC recommends downloading VLC Media Player, a free multimedia player that will play all of the EGARC Digital Library audio and video files.

**Graded Assignments:**
15 Online Assignments on Blackboard (20% of grade); 3 tests (15%, 20%, 20%); final exam (20%). Later grades may count more if grades on assignments have improved. Excellent performance in an optional interview may also raise a grade.

**Grading Scale:** 90% and above = A; 80% to 89% = B; etc.

**Attendance is required.** Unless you have a doctor’s excuse (or similar documentation), please do not ask the instructors to help you with material covered on days when you are not in class. Review materials will be posted on Blackboard, but they will not include details mentioned in class. It is your responsibility to attend the lectures and to take your own notes.

**Notes on Online Blackboard Assignments:**
1) Most of the assignments contain elementary questions that are designed to help you get oriented. Please do not limit your preparation for class to answering the questions.
2) You may look at the books while you are working on the assignments.
3) You may talk with other people about the questions, but your answers must be your own.
4) Spelling counts (otherwise the program cannot accept your answer).
5) You may submit the assignments multiple times, until the moment it is due. Your highest grade will be your grade.
6) If you are unable to submit an assignment for technical reasons (power outage, etc.), please call me (864-2396) or slip a note under my office door by 11:45 AM on the day the assignment is due.
7) If illness or other difficulty prevents you from submitting an assignment, please ask for a password-protected make-up (generally, within 48 hours).
8) Some assignments are longer than others.

**Academic Misconduct:** We will of course not tolerate inappropriate behavior such as plagiarism or the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations. For the university's policies on cheating, see the Student Handbook: [http://www.studenthandbook.ku.edu/codes.shtml#Academic_Misconduct](http://www.studenthandbook.ku.edu/codes.shtml#Academic_Misconduct).

**Disabilities:** The Classics department follows all of KU’s guidelines for the accommodation of students with disabilities. The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall. Information about their services can be found at [http://disability.ku.edu](http://disability.ku.edu). Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

**Conflicts with an Instructor:** If you experience difficulties or feel that you have been treated unfairly, please talk directly with the instructor. If the instructor is a GTA and if the issue has not been resolved, please talk to the Chair of the Classics Department (Professor Gordon). If the issue involves Professor Gordon, please talk with her first. If the issue has not been resolved, please talk with Professor Tara Welch, the Undergraduate Advisor of the Classics Department (tswelch@ku.edu).

The full syllabus is posted on Blackboard. All reading and online assignments listed are due before class on date listed.

Here is the first assignment:

**August 24**  
*Homer Hymns*

**Blackboard Assignment #1 due before class**
Reading Assignments due:
- To Dionysus (Hymns 1, 7, and 26) pages 1-2, 68-69, 89
- To Hephaestus (Hymn 20) page 83
- To Athena (Hymns 11 and 28), pages 73 and 91
- To Ares (Hymn 8) page 70
- To Zeus (Hymn 23) page 86
- To Hera (Hymn 12) page 74
- OCD article on Hera
- OCD article on Hephaestus
- OCD article on Ares
August 26  
*Homeric Hymns*  
**Blackboard Assignment #2 due before class**  
Reading Assignments due:  
To Apollo (Hymns 3 and 21) pages 19-37 and 84  
To Artemis (Hymns 9 and 27) pages 71 and 90  
To Poseidon (Hymn 22) page 85

August 29  
*Homeric Hymns*  
**Blackboard Assignment due before class**  
Reading Assignments due:  
To Aphrodite (Hymns 5 and 6) pages 57-67  
To Hermes (Hymns 4 and 18) pages 39-56 and 80  
To Pan (Hymn 19) pages 81-82  
Browse *OCD* articles on Hermes and Aphrodite

August 31  
*Homeric Hymns*  
Read the rest of the hymns except for the hymns to Demeter (which we will read before the open rehearsal, and/or the Dance performance in April—this schedule may change. Focus especially on the hymns to  
To Hestia (Hymns 24 and 29) pages 87 and 92  
To Herakles (Hymn 15) page 77.  
To Earth, Mother of All Things (Hymn 30) page 93.  
To the Mother of the Gods (Hymn 14) page 76  
*OCD* articles on Hestia and Heracles. Also browse the “exhibit” on [Herakles on the Perseus website](https://perseus.tufts.edu/).  

September 2  
*Homeric Hymns*  
To Demeter (Hymns 2 and 13) pages 2-18 and 75.  
*OCD* article on Persephone  
With review on sept 7, and test on 9th???

September 12  
Homer, *Iliad* book 1  
Blackboard Assignment #3 due

September 14  
Homer, *Iliad* books 2-4  
Browse *OCD* article on Homer

September 16  
Homer, *Iliad* books 5-7

September 19  
Homer, *Iliad* books 8-12  
*OCD* article on Achilles  
*OCD* article on Agamemnon

September 21  
Homer, *Iliad* books 13-19  
*OCD* article on Briseis  
*OCD* article on Hector  
Blackboard Assignment #4 due

September 23  
Reading on violence in the *Iliad* (see handout)

September 26  
Homer, *Iliad* books 20-24  
Sheila Murnaham’s introduction to *Iliad*

February 23  
Exam #1

February 25  
Homer, *Odyssey* 1-2
OCD article(s) TBA
Blackboard Assignment #5 due

February 28  Homer, Odyssey 3-5
Sheila Murnaham’s introduction to Odyssey

March 2 Homer, Odyssey
OCD articles TBA
Blackboard Assignment #6 due

March 4 Homer, Odyssey  Rediscovering Homer: Inside the Origins of the Epic  Jestina Matulka

So far, these books are spoken for: Rediscovering Homer: Inside the Origins of the Epic (Jestina); Allan William’s Euripides: Medea (Alex Wolfrum); and Classical Myth and Culture in the Cinema (Tyler).

I added hyperlinks to the Annotated Bibliography on Violence in Iliad (under Critical Book Review button), so you can just click for reviews or previews.

Classical Myth and Culture in the Cinema
March 7 Assignment TBA
WHEN? Winkler, Martin M. (ed.), Classical Myth and Culture in the Cinema
March 9 Euripides’ Electra
(Read Meineck and Woodruff’s introduction with all plays)

March 11 Ovid, Metamorphoses books 1-3 (up to page 72)
W.R. Johnson’s introduction to Metamorphoses
Blackboard Assignment #7 due

March 14 Euripides’ Bacchae
Woodruff’s introduction to Bacchae

March 16 Euripides’ Bacchae
Ovid, Metamorphoses book 3, pages 81-104

March 18 Assignment TBA

March 28 Sophocles’ Ajax
Blackboard Assignment #8 due

March 30 Assignment TBA

April 1 Sophocles’ Women of Trachis
Blackboard Assignment #9 due

April 4 Sophocles’ Women of Trachis

April 6 Euripides’ Alcestis

April 8 Euripides’ Medea
OCD article on Argonauts
OCD article on Jason (1)
Blackboard Assignment #10 due
April 11  Euripides’ Medea
Allan William's Euripides: Medea as my article if it is not already taken.
-Alex Wolfrum

Recommended: the 1988 film “Medea,” directed by Lars von Trier;
Screenplay by Carl Theodor Dreyer. Available in EARC
Allan William's Euripides: Medea as my article if it is not already taken.
-Alex Wolfrum

April 13  Euripides’ Hippolytus
Optional: the 1962 film “Phaedra,” directed by Jules Dassin
With Melina Mercouri, Anthony Perkins, and Raf Vallone
Out of print, but available on Netflix, etc.

April 15  Euripides’ Hippolytus
OCD article on Hippolytus (1)
OCD article on Minos

April 18  Ovid, Heroides 4, Phaedra to Hippolytus
(pages 28ff in Harold Isbell's Penguin translation)

April 20  Review for exam. No class, but please stop by during office hours if you wish.

April 22  Exam #2

April 25  Assignment TBA

April 27  Virgil’s Aeneid book 1
Browse OCD article on Virgil
Blackboard Assignment #11 due

April 28 & 29 “Cradling Persephone” Dance Concert

April 29  Persephone and Demeter
Ovid’s Metamorphoses book 5 pages 133-140
Story on Demeter in Ovid’s Fasti
Hymn to Demeter
OCD article on Persephone

May 2  Virgil’s Aeneid 2-3
OCD article on Dido

May 4  Virgil’s Aeneid 4-6
Blackboard assignment #12 due

May 6  Virgil’s Aeneid, continued
Ovid, Heroides 7, “Dido to Aeneas”
(pages 56ff in Harold Isbell’s Penguin translation)

May 9  Virgil’s Aeneid, continued
W.R. Johnson’s introduction to Aeneid
May 11  Assignment TBA