

UNIVERSITY of GUELPH
SCHOOL of LANGUAGES and LITERATURES
WINTER 2016

CLAS*2000 Classical Mythology
LEC Mon, Wed, Fri
04:30PM-5:20PM
ROZH 103

Instructor: Dr John Walsh
Office: MCKN 243/MWF 5:30-6:30pm
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COURSE OUTLINE

Objective:

The course will study the Greek myths as traditional tales which, in addition to their narrative interest, convey attitudes of the early Greeks to their natural environment, the institutions of their society and dominant forms of thought (of any of which no prior knowledge is expected). Ancient and modern interpretations of these myths will be studied. The myth-making of Plato will be shown to elucidate some of the functions of the earlier myths and Lévi-Strauss' comprehensive theory of myth will elucidate further functions. Myths which are basic to later works of poetic and plastic art will be given special emphasis.

Prerequisite: None.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course an assiduous student will be able to:

1. Connect specific myths to the cultures that produced them
2. Identify the histories and functions of the gods and heroes of classical myth
3. Identify the literary and the visual iconography of major gods, heroes, and legends
4. of classical myth
5. Discuss the ways in which morality deconstructs the idea of absolute interpretation or objective reading
6. Identify the ways in which collection, transcription, and scholarship constantly reinterpret an oral tradition for new generations
7. Examine the ways in which variant versions of a story focus attention on the invariant elements
8. Explore a variety of scholarly approaches to mythology in discussion and writing
9. Develop an appreciation for the range and diversity of mythology and folklore
10. Identify recurring mythological themes and motifs

11. Recognize the role of myth in the arts

Texts Required:

Title: Classical Mythology, 10th Edition
Author: Morford, Mark P.O., Robert J. Lenardon, and Michael Sham
Edition: 10th edition
ISBN: 0199997322

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm Examination* [Friday, Week 6 (see Syllabus)]	25%
Research Paper [†] [Wednesday, Week 10 (see Syllabus)]	25%
Final Examination**	<u>50%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

*The Midterm Examination will examine the student on his/her knowledge of: (1) **ALL** assigned readings, (2) **ALL** lecture material and in-class discussion from Unit I (see Syllabus). The format of all tests and examinations will be discussed **in lecture** prior to each evaluation. The Midterm Examination is 50 minutes.

The Final Examination is cumulative and will examine the student on his/her knowledge of: (1) **ALL assigned readings, (2) **ALL** lecture material and in-class discussion from Units I and II. Special emphasis will be given to material covered in Unit II. The format of all tests and examinations will be discussed **in lecture** prior to each evaluation. The Final Examination is 2 hours.

[†]Guidelines and instructions for the writing assignment are posted to Courselink.

The Midterm Examination and Writing Assignment will be returned to students in lecture (dates to be announced), and grades posted to Courselink. Students who miss lecture must schedule an appointment with the TAs (see Courselink for contact details) to collect examination or assignment materials.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 11 March 2016**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the [website](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students

need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

Greco-Roman religion is an umbrella term used to refer to many religious traditions practised within the Roman Empire and eventually syncretized and assimilated into something resembling a complex whole. It originated largely in the pre-existing mythology of ancient Greece, which was appropriated by the Romans into their own religious practices. In its latter years, when it competed with Christianity, it was referred to by followers of that religion as paganism. Classical mythology is sometimes referred to as "Greek Mythology" by people who don't think the Romans contributed much or take the two mythologies separately. In The Bible book, Acts of the Apostles, the apostle, Paul of Tarsus, invited to explain his religion to a group of intellectuals in Athens, only interested a few converts while the others were apparently asking questions he couldn't answer satisfactorily. The Epicurean writer Lucian of Samosata was already deconstructing popular religious stories in the second century AD. Classical Mythology is an introduction to the primary characters and most important stories of classical Greek and Roman mythology. Among those you will study are the accounts of the creation of the world in Hesiod's Theogony and Ovid's Metamorphoses; the gods Zeus, Apollo, Demeter, Persephone, Hermes, Dionysos, and Aphrodite; the Greek Heroes, Theseus and Heracles (Hercules in the Roman version); and the most famous of all classical myths, the Trojan War. How Should We Study Mythology?