Classics 170  
Greek and Roman Mythology  
WB11 Online  
Winter 2016  
January 4-January 22

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Office Hours: By appointment (we can connect by email, phone, or Skype)

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TBA

COURSE WEBSITE: http://elms.umd.edu. You must be a registered student in the course to access this site.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Copies of the following books are available at the University Book Center in the Student Union.  
• Stephen L. Harris and Gloria Platzner, Classical Mythology: Images and Insights (McGraw-Hill) FIFTH (used) or Sixth (current) EDITION ISBN 9780073535678.  
• Ovid, Metamorphoses, translated by David Raeburn (Penguin) ISBN 014044789X; you can use a different translation of Ovid but you will need to locate the relevant readings on your own; I list the page numbers for the Raeburn translation. By using the names of characters and the index of your translation, you can with a little effort find the relevant passages.

COURSE GRADING:
Discussion Board Postings: 40%  
Two assigned essays: 10%  
Midterm Examination: 25%  
Final Examination: 25%  

In general, grades will be correlated with the following percentages:  
97-100 A+  
92-96 A  
90-91 A-  
87-89 B+  
82-86 B  
80-81 B-  
77-79 C+  
72-76 C  
70-71 C-  
67-69 D+  
62-66 D  
60-61 D-  
59 & below F  

I reserve the right, however, to make adjustments in these ranges in order to compensate for factors which might make these ranges inappropriate. Such adjustments, or curves, as they are popularly known, can be made either up OR down. Any such adjustments will be made only at the end of the semester and not after each test. For more information on the nature of tests, please see the next section.
COURSE POLICIES:

1. This syllabus is in a sense a contract between us. It makes clear what you can expect from me and from the course as well as what I will expect from you. Please read it carefully; by remaining in the course, you are indicating your willingness to abide by its provisions. In a large course such as this one, it is necessary to have a detailed structure and a clear set of rules to insure both fairness and learning. Within this framework, however, I will do all I can to deal with you individually and personally.

2. The French philosopher Voltaire wrote that the study of mythology is the occupation of blockheads. He couldn't have been more wrong. Mythology is not the study of simple-minded fairy tales nor the pursuit of mere entertainment. It is a fascinating and difficult exploration of the human mind, of the fictions it creates, and of the uses we make of those fictions to help us in understanding ourselves, our history and our various cultures. Mythology shares some of the qualities that we commonly associate with disciplines such as philosophy, religion, psychology, literary criticism, and anthropology.

3. Through this course I want you to:
   a. become familiar with the characters and events of the most important classical myths.
   b. be able to recognize the influence of these myths on the English language and to recognize allusions to these myths in art and literature.
   c. understand how geography, politics, philosophy, religion and gender have shaped the character of these myths.
   d. consider various theories of the nature of myth and its functions and apply them to myths which we study.

   By studying their myths, we will be learning about the ideas, values, and traditions of the Greeks and Romans. But since these myths have remained a part of Western culture long after "the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome" [Edgar Allan Poe] had passed into history, we will also be learning about our own values and ideas as inheritors and retellers of these myths. If you wish to do well in this course, please take seriously the following recommendations:
   a. Read all assignments, view all lectures, and complete discussion assignments in a timely manner.
   b. Plan to devote at least 6 hours for each module in this course; a module is assigned for each of 12 days in the class schedule. Remember that a Winter course covers in one day the material covered in one week of a regular semester.
   c. The assignments for each topic are listed in the lecture outlines and discussion session agendas which are posted, together with related images, on the course website. You should read and study these assignments PRIOR to the topic for which they are assigned. Lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you know what was in the readings. Use the section titled KEY CHARACTERS, CONCEPTS as a guide for the most important material in each assignment. Lecture outlines are intended to show you the shape of that day's materials.
   d. I encourage you to contact me or your TA with any questions or suggestions you may have. I want to clarify material which you do not fully understand, to have you challenge my interpretations of material, and to hear your ideas as well. As noted above, we can communicate by email, phone, or Skype.

4. Tests will consist of short-answer questions, identification questions, and both short and long essay questions. I will ask you not only to know the details of a story (e.g., the name of Oedipus' father) but also to interpret and explain it. For example, why does Oedipus kill his father at a place where three roads meet? Heroes regularly reach a crossroads in life at which
they must make choices that shape the rest of their lives; Oedipus makes his decisive choice at a literal rather than a metaphoric crossroads. We will constantly discuss issues such as these; in tests I will seek to determine not just whether you know a myth, but also whether you understand it. On the website there will be posted (for the first exam) a set of sample questions to guide you in your preparation and a key with the sort of answers I’m looking for to these questions. You will be given lists of possible essay questions in advance of each exam; the essay questions on the tests will be drawn from these lists.

5. The University has approved a Code of Academic Integrity (http://www.4.shc.umd.edu/code.html) which prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, facilitating academic dishonesty, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. Plagiarism policy: all quotations taken from other authors, including from the Internet, must be indicated by quotation marks and referenced. Paraphrasing must be referenced as well. All of your work in this course will be submitted under the provisions and sanctions of the University’s Honor Code. Especially in an online course, where tests are not conducted in person, the following issues are very important:

a. HONESTY: I value honesty very highly and will do all I can to encourage it. By University regulations, any of the following acts constitute academic dishonesty:
   (1). CHEATING: intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
   (2). FABRICATION: intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
   (3). FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: intentionally helping or attempting ot help another to violate any provision of this code.
   (4). PLAGIARISM: intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. I will report any violations to the Student Honor Council.

b. MISSED EXAMS or ASSIGNMENTS: Although you have flexibility for the completion of exams and assignments in this online course, there is still the possibility that you will not be able, on occasion, to meet specified deadlines. In those cases, I follow university regulations, as outlined in the college catalogue, with regard to missed exams or assignments. In order to qualify for a make-up exam or to submit an assignment after the deadline, you must have missed the regular exam or assignment due to illness, a religious holiday, or other circumstances beyond your control. **You DO NOT need a doctor’s note to verify an illness.** If you must miss an exam or delay the completion of an assignment, I simply ask that you email me (gstaley@umd.edu) as soon as you are able to report your problem and that you schedule the completion of the missed work for the earliest possible date. All excuses are covered by the University Honor Code and implicitly contain a pledge of honesty.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**
Full details about each day’s work are posted on the course website; here I provide the topics that will be covered and the dates on which they will be due. Each day's work is presented in a module which consists of two topics presented in video lectures and one topic treated in a discussion board. For each day you will need to read between 25-75 pages, watch two lectures, and contribute 750 words to a discussion board.

Monday, January 4th: Introduction to Greek Mythology
- Classical Myth and Country Music
- The Interpretation of Greek Myth (D=Discussion)
- The World of the Greeks
Tuesday, January 5th: The Greek Myth of Creation  
  • The Greek Myth of Creation  
  • The Rise of Zeus  
  • Zeus and Hera (D)

Wednesday, January 6th: Prometheus, Pandora, and the Creation of Humans  
  • Prometheus  
  • Pandora (D)  
  • The Creation of Humans

Thursday, January 7th: Athena and Aphrodite  
  • Athena  
  • Aphrodite  
  • Stupid Cupid (D)

Friday, January 8th: Apollo, Dionysos and Tragedy  
  • Apollo  
  • Dionysos  
  • Myth and Tragedy (D)

Monday, January 11th: Hades, the Hero and Heracles  
  • Hades and the Afterlife (D)  
  • The Myth of the Hero  
  • Heracles

Tuesday, January 12th: MIDTERM EXAM

Wednesday, January 13th: The Trojan War  
  • The Story of the Iliad  
  • Achilles, Best of the Achaians  
  • Achilles, the Tragic Hero (D)

Thursday, January 14th: Odysseus  
  • The Fall of Troy  
  • Odysseus, Mr. “Odious”  
  • Odysseus, the Comic Hero (D)

Friday, January 15th: Oedipus  
  • The Complex Oedipus  
  • Freud and Oedipus (D)

Tuesday, January 19th: Women in Greek Myth  
  • Women in Greek Myth  
  • Antigone (D)  
  • Wonder Women in America

Wednesday, January 20th: Roman Myths  
  • Roman Mythology  
  • Arms and the Man: Aeneas  
  • Ovid’s Love Stories (D)

Thursday, January 21st: The Heritage of Classical Mythology  
  • Orpheus: The Music Never Dies  
  • Classical Myths in America
• Classical Myths in Washington (D)

Friday, January 22\textsuperscript{nd}: FINAL EXAMINATION