Course Description:
This course is designed as an introductory exploration of Greek and Roman myths and their influences on Western culture. The phenomenon of the hero and heroine in the context of Classical myth will also be examined. We will consider the accepted roles and treatment of the working class and women in Classical society, and how mythology served to support or challenge social norms. Students will complete extensive and careful readings from a variety of primary source materials, including major epics and plays, such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, works of Hesiod, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil and if time allows, Ovid. An introduction to the general nature and function of myth is included to provide students with a foundation from which to build a thorough understanding of the cultural and historical significance of Classical Mythology.

Required Text and Additional Reading:
The Grimal text is recommended as an excellent reference for use during this course and for those who may have a continuing interest in Classical Mythology. It is also available in the CSUS library for "in library use only" (BL 715.G713 1986).
Optional but recommended!: Homer, Odyssey, translated by Stanley Lombardo, Hackett 2000. This is the full version of the Odyssey excerpted in your required text, however, there are other translations (Fagles; Fitzgerald) widely available online and used.
There will be additional reading assignments posted online. Information regarding access will be forthcoming.
!Be wary of some “resources” on this subject due to its popularity with hobbyists who enjoy creating websites, developing opinions, drawing conclusions, etc…without necessarily applying good scholarship or referencing primary source material!

Course Objectives:
Successful students will:
- acquire a sophisticated knowledge of Classical mythology, its principal narratives and "players."
- develop an appreciation for its integration into the cultural vocabulary.
- comprehend the function of Classical Mythology as an expression of the universal human experience.
- advance their skills of critical analysis in reading and writing.
- recognize the influence and elements of Classical Mythology as it is expressed in art and literature in the present as well as the past.
- expand their understanding of themes and ideas in Classical Mythology which have expression in other world cultures.
Requirements and Grading:
Careful and thoughtful reading and writing are fundamental aspects of this course, therefore, it is essential to complete all reading assignments and be attentive to lecture materials and presentations. (Take notes!) Attendance is required as per departmental attendance policy—grade reductions (and more importantly, loss of educational experience!) will result from excessive absences.

Respectful participation in class discussions is encouraged and may affect your overall grade favorably.* Disrespectful conduct, including, but not limited to, cell phone activity, playing on computers, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, disruptive behavior, etc..., will affect your participation grade unfavorably. If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, come late, etc..., please discuss with me.

*IMPORTANT! If you are a student who experiences anxiety simply at the thought of speaking up in class, please see me or email me for helpful strategies and tips for reducing stress and improving your learning experience. I consider all students equally important to the classroom dynamic.

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in grade penalties or other serious consequences as per university policies. This can be very detrimental to your goals-don’t do it!!!

Course grades are determined by the following:
18% -Attendance and Participation‡---------------------------------------------------------------55 points
25% - Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) **+ (25 points each) -------------------------------75 points
17% - Mid-term writing assignment **•-----------------------------------------------------------50 points
15% - Paper (3-5 pages)--------------------------------------------------------------------------45 points
25% - Final**- short essay and multiple choice---------------------------------------------------75 points
100%---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------300 points

A --------300-277 points
A- ---------276-268 points
B+ --------267-261 points
B ---------260-246 points
B- --------245-237 points
C+ --------236-230 points
C --------229-216 points
C- --------215-206 points
D+ --------205-199 points What’s going on here? Reading? Taking notes? Stop playing on your computer in class! Quit texting in class!
D --------198-186 points “ “ “ Contact me to see how you can improve your study habits. Stop your InstaG, Twitter, FB or games in class!
D- --------185-175 points. You should have come to see me long before it got to this point. “ “ “ “ “
! --------Yikes. ☹ “ “ “ See you next semester ☹ I tried to tell you.

‡ The attendance and participation grade is determined by the following point distribution: accumulated by good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (10 pts), reading responses and journaling (25 pts) and some exciting miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (10 pts).

** New Makeup Policies for Spring 2015! Please take note! All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writings or the final. (Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. If you absolutely need to leave during a quiz, writing assignment or final exam, you must turn your paper in before you leave the room and it will be graded based on work completed to that point.) Due to excessive requests for makeups the following policies will be strictly adhered to: Requests will be considered and granted on a case by case basis only when extenuating circumstances or medical issues are documented. All quiz/midterm makeups granted will be taken in the CSUS Testing Center. Students are responsible for making arrangements and paying fees. No final exams will be given before finals week. No exceptions.

+For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E; for the Midterm you will need a bluebook (any size you are comfortable with is okay); for the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

• The Midterm writing assignment is an exercise in primary source identification, analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. If you have completed assigned readings and have an attentive presence in class you will be well-prepared for the Midterm. More detailed information will be given closer to the exam date.
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the professor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

Course Calendar

All reading assignments are to be completed before the class week for which they are listed.

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**Week 1 – Jan 27, 29**

- Introduction to the nature and function of myth.
- Approaches to the study of myth; Background to Classical Mythology

Read: Harris and Platzner (hereafter referred to as H&P), Ch. 2 *Optional reading:* Ch. 1.

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**Week 2 – Feb 3, 5**

- An ancient poet complains about “the old ball and chain” and much more!!!

Read: H&P, Ch. 3- In the Beginning: Hesiod’s Creation Story

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**Week 3 – Feb 10, 12**

- “You always go right there! …,blaming me for all the plagues and infestations of the world!” *Pandora*

Read: H&P, Ch. 4- Alienation of the Human and Divine: Prometheus, Fire and Pandora
- H&P, Ch. 5- The Great Goddess and Goddesses: Divine Women in Greek mythology

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**Week 4 – Feb 17, 19**

- Zeus gets busy! …(and Hera is not okay with it!)

Read: H&P, Ch. 6- The Olympian Pantheon

**Feb 17: Quiz # 1→ (Chs., 2, 3, 4, 5)**

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**Week 5 – Feb 24, 26**

- Let’s meet someone even Kanye is jealous of…And who can forget the classic, “Party like a Rockstar! Party like a Rockstar!”?… you know the rest. Here is where it all started…

Read: H&P, Ch. 7- In Touch With the Gods: Apollo’s Oracle at Delphi
- H&P, Ch. 8- Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy

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**Week 6 – Mar 3, 5**

- …and here is where it all ends 😂

Read: H&P, Ch. 9- Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades

**Mar 5–Quiz # 2→ (Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9)**

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**Week 7 – Mar 10, 12**

- Manly gods or godly men? …some semi-divine heroes of classical myth! “Wow, it’s true, Medusa IS fugly!” *Perseus* … and a few, okay, only one or two, heroic women. For an explanation of the shortage, re-read Hesiod!

Read: H&P, Ch. 10 - Heroes of Myth
- H&P, Ch. 11- Heroines of Myth

  [www.sacred-texts.com/cla: Adlington's trans. of Apuleius' tale of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche](found under the Classics heading, "Roman.")

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**Week 8 – Mar 17, 19**

- Introduction to the Homeric Epics beginning with the *Iliad.*

Read: H&P, Ch. 12 Heroes at War; the *Iliad*

**Mar 19th Midterm: in-class writing assignment!**

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**• Week 9 – Mar 24, 26**

***** Spring Break! ***** Have Fun! * Be Safe! * Read! **********

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Week 10 – Mar 31 Holiday-no class meeting! (Cesar Chavez Birthday 3/31/1927- 4/23/1993), Apr 2
A hero for all times! Introduction to the Odyssey.
Here is something to think about: If you were a modern Odysseus on a quest across America, where would the Land of the Lotus-Eaters be?
Read: H&P, Ch.13- A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of Odysseus

Now is the time to read the full version of the Odyssey if you have time—I recommend it!
*Online assignment posted on BlackBoard! If BlackBoard fails, assignment will be sent via SacSend. Due on April 7th!

Week 11 – Apr 7, Apr 9
Following Odysseus around continued…
Introduction to Greek Drama: “What happens at the Dionysia stays at the Dionysia!” Dionysus

Read: H&P, Ch. 14 (only through page 517) - The Theater of Dionysus
Apr 9 Quiz # 3—(Chs. 10, 11, 12, 13)

Week 12 – Apr 14, Apr 16
Cannibalism, incest, patricide, adultery, deception…No! Not Real Housewives of Orange County!
…the original dysfunctional families.

Read: H&P, Ch. 15-The House of Atreus: the Oresteia
H&P, Ch. 16- The Tragic House of Laius: Sophocles’ Oedipus Cycle.

Week 13 – Apr 21, Apr 23
Oh sad Euripides! How could you know Jerry Springer would steal material from your Medea???

Read: H&P, Ch. 17-A Different Perspective on Tragedy... Euripides- Medea.
H&P, Ch. 14 (pp 517-581) the Bacchae

Additional Assignment! Eat with your family, or fellow cult members: a Turkey (try to find the biggest turkey you can-like a 30 pounder!) and mashed potatoes, cranberries and yams--with your hands in your backyard. Ritualistically pour gravy on each others' heads. Watch: Your neighbors’ faces (they will be hiding in their houses and peeking from behind curtains) as your family members tear the turkey apart with their hands and throw the pieces violently at each other to enjoy. Dance: Follow feast with banging on metal trash can lids with BBQ tools (or playing old Slayer, ICP or any Scandinavian death metal band cds) and dancing* in a crazy circle around pine trees. Drink: If you are over 21and are not planning on operating heavy machinery (including but not limited to cars, motorcycles, boats or airplanes, or light machinery including but not limited to surgical tools, children’s story books, spoons or neckties), enjoy a small vat or barrel of wine. This assignment is much easier accomplished in November, however, you may substitute one of those giant turkey sandwiches from ToGos if no whole turkeys are available.

* If you have them, wear old animal skins instead of clothes. And for more specific dance instructions watch that old Seinfeld episode where Elaine ‘dances’ at the office party...trust me-this will all make sense to you by this time in the semester. Mwhaa-hahahahahaha! No, of course this isn’t a required assignment, and yes, I have been asked that question.

Week 14 – Apr 28, Apr 30
The Romans are coming! It was only a matter of time, and...very, very large armies.

Read: H&P, Ch. 18- The Roman Vision: Greek Myths and Roman Realities;

Apr 30 ! Topic for paper assignment handed out today!

Week 15– May 5, May 7
And Virgil is no fool-he knows “which side to butter, or, um... rather, olive oil his bread on!”

Read: H&P, Ch. 19- Virgil's Roman Epic: the Aeneid
May 7- Quiz #4 (Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17)

Week 16– May 12, May 14
Ovid on the other hand... and a summary. “How do you like me now??” Augustus to Ovid

Read: H&P, Ch. 20- Metamorphoses
Summary and catch-up-. As time allows, discussion of mythical elements in Petronius’ “Dinner with Trimalchio” from the Satyricon, chapt. 5, and the Golden Ass by Apuleius (both readings accessed in sacred-texts.com under the Classics heading).

Tuesday May 19th
3-5pm Final Exam!
Paper due today at 3pm!
Happy Summer 2015! I am really going to myth all of you.