

Hrs 119 Classical Mythology

Summer Session I 2009
T/R 9:00-12:30 p.m. MND 4004

Professor V. Shinbrot

Office: 2014 Mendocino Hall

Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30

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Course Description: This is a study of Greek and Roman myths and hero tales and their place in the art and literature of Western civilization. Students will read extensively from the primary sources, including Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, selected plays of Aeschylus and Euripides and Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. Readings and lectures will be supplemented with consideration of art and architecture relating to myths. Meets Area C4 GE Requirement.

Course Objectives: This course is designed as an introductory survey of classical mythology. Its major objective is to advance significantly the student's knowledge of this subject matter, which remains a vital part of our shared cultural vocabulary. Additional Objectives Include:

- Development of keen analytical skills through close and careful readings of the texts, thoughtful, well-written essays and class discussion Ability to formulate provocative questions and ideas independently and make connections within a diverse body of works both in and outside of class
- An increased personal appreciation of the great works of the arts and humanities produced in this span of time and their relevance to the world in which we live.

Required Texts:

Harris and Platzner, *Classical Mythology: Images and Insights*, 5th Ed.
Odyssey, Translated by Stanley Lombardo

Grading and Assignments: Class Attendance and Participation are essential requirements of the course. Students are expected to come to class prepared with their own questions, ideas, comments and creative input to discuss in an open-minded and stimulating environment. Failure to prepare for or attend class will seriously lower your grade. Departmental Policy states that more than one week of absences from class will result in the lowering of the student's grade one-half step per each additional absence. In addition, doing other work in class, chatting with neighbors, answering cell phones, text messaging, falling asleep or behaving or speaking in an uncivil or aggressive manner to any member of the class including the instructor, will automatically lower your participation grade by one full grade each time you do so.

Participation	20%
Midterm	40%
Final Exam	40%

Please Note: No make-up exams will be given. Failure to attend class will result in an F for the exam.

All Assignments should be completed by the day listed on the syllabus. Please bring relevant books to each class meeting.

Week One	
Tuesday, June 2nd	Introduction (Chapters 1 and 2) Approaches to the Study of Myth
Thursday, June 4th	Read Chapters 3 and 4 <i>Theogony</i> (pp.87-105) and <i>Prometheus Myth</i> (pp.135-143)
Week Two	
Tuesday, June 9th	Read Chapter 5 The Demeter Myth (pp.163-178).Read Chapters 7 and 8 Apollo (pp.244-265) and Dionysus (pp.268-291)
Thursday, June 11th	Read Chapter 12 Homer's <i>Iliad</i>
Week Three	
Tuesday, June 16th	Read <i>Odyssey</i> Books 1-4, 5-10
Thursday, June 18th	<i>Odyssey</i> Books 11-17
Week Four	
Tuesday, June 23rd	<i>Odyssey</i> Books 20-24
Thursday, June 25th	Midterm
Week Five	
Tuesday, June 30th	Read Chapter 15 <i>The Oresteia</i> . Read <i>Agamemnon</i> (pp.558-607) and <i>The Eumenides</i> (pp.621-642)
Thursday, July 2nd	Read Chapter 17 Euripides' <i>Medea</i>
Week Six	
Tuesday, July 7th	Read Chapter 17 Euripides' <i>Bacchae</i>
Thursday, July 9th	In-class Essay/Final