California State University, Sacramento
Classical Mythology
Fall 2008

Humanities and Religious Studies 119-01 Dr. Jeffrey Brodd jbrodd@csus.edu
Mendocino 1003 Office: Mendocino 2028; 278-7703
Tuesdays 6:00-8:50 p.m. Hrs: TR 11:00-11:45; T 4:00-5:45; and by appt.

Study of Greek and Roman myths and hero tales and their place in the arts and literature of Western civilization. Also provides an introduction to the general nature and function of myth. Fulfills Area C4 of the CSUS General Education requirements.

Students will read extensively from the primary sources, including Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, selected plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, Virgil’s *Aeneid*, and Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Readings and lectures will be supplemented with consideration of art and architecture relating to the myths.

**Texts**

**Required**


**Optional texts on Library Reserve**

- Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* (trans. Thomson)
- *The Homeric Hymns* (trans. Boer)
- Homer, *The Iliad* (trans. Fitzgerald)
- Homer, *Odyssey* (trans. Lombardo)
- Aeschylus, *The Oresteia* (trans. Fagles)


**Learning Objectives**

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- significantly enhance familiarity with the subject matter of classical mythology, which remains a vital part of our shared cultural vocabulary
- enhance knowledge of the Greek and Roman historical contexts of classical mythology
- increase understanding of the universal concerns and perspectives of the human condition as they find expression in myths
- develop analytical reading and critical thinking skills through study of a great variety of literature
- improve writing skills through completion of assigned essays
- identify and analyze the impact of myth on the art and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome
Requirements and Grading

In order to derive the most from complex (but enjoyable) subject matter like classical mythology, it is essential that students actively engage with readings and lecture presentations. All readings are to be completed by the class session for which they are scheduled; vocal participation in class is encouraged. In addition, formal requirements consist of the following:

- Three quizzes (40%: the lowest score will count 10%, the two highest scores 15% each)
- Two essays (approximately 4 pages each) (30%)
- Final exam (30%)

The quizzes and the final are part “objective” (e.g. multiple choice) and part “short answer” (topical questions designed to be answered in a paragraph or two). Sound preparation will require careful attention to both lecture material and readings, with special focus on primary texts and bold-faced terms.

The essays will be assessed based on this rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seriously Flawed (D)</th>
<th>Adequate (C)</th>
<th>Proficient (B)</th>
<th>Advanced (A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Used minimal primary and secondary resources.</td>
<td>Used mainly secondary resources.</td>
<td>Used both primary and secondary resources quite extensively.</td>
<td>Demonstrated unusual facility in using primary and secondary sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Illustrates a lack of an adequate level of analysis, such that arguments receive little support from information.</td>
<td>Illustrates adequate level of analysis, making occasional effective points supporting arguments with information.</td>
<td>Illustrates a good level of analysis, making many effective points supporting arguments with information.</td>
<td>Illustrates highly sophisticated level of analysis in approach to supporting arguments and integrating information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Displays random or confusing organization.</td>
<td>Demonstrates adequate organization.</td>
<td>Demonstrates a clear and coherent organization.</td>
<td>Demonstrates sophisticated organization. Makes effective connections between ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing quality</td>
<td>Shows deficient control of syntax, word choice, and conventions of Standard English. Errors impede understanding.</td>
<td>Displays adequate control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English.</td>
<td>Displays consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English.</td>
<td>Displays superior, consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English.</td>
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Grades and their correlative minimum percentages/scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubric scores</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
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Late essays will be accepted within two days of the due date only, with a 14-point (one letter grade) reduction. Quizzes and the final exam must be taken at their scheduled times. Attendance is required, as per departmental attendance policy—a student’s course grade may be reduced due to an excessive number of unexcused absences. Consult with the instructor if ever there is a need to miss class. Use in class of laptop computers must be approved by the instructor; use (or ringing) of cell phones is not permitted. Compliance with rules prohibiting cheating and plagiarism along with principles of courteous conduct are required (i.e., no ‘chatting’ during class, no leaving class without prior permission, no walking in front of the instructor if ever one needs to arrive late) (for the University’s policy on plagiarism, see: http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

Note: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008; 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with the instructor after class or during office hours early in the semester.

Schedule and Assignments
(All readings from Harris and Platzner, Classical Mythology; readings are to be completed in advance of the session with which they are listed—e.g., Chs. 3 and 5 by class time on 9/9)

Introduction to Classical Mythology

Tues 9/2  “Myth”
Background of classical mythology
Approaches to the study of myth
(Recommended: read Chs. 1 and 2 after this session)

The Cosmos and the Divine Realm

Tues 9/9  Hesiod’s Theogony.  Ch. 3
Goddess worship.  Ch. 5

Tues 9/16  The Olympian pantheon.  Ch. 6
Quiz (Chs. 1-3, 5, 6)

Tues 9/23  Apollo.  Ch. 7
Dionysus.  Ch. 8

The Human Condition

Tues 9/30  Prometheus and the divine/human rift.  Ch. 4
The afterlife. The hero.  Chs. 9 and 10

Tues 10/7  Heroines.  Ch. 11
Quiz (Chs. 7, 8, 4, 9-11)
The Homeric Epics

Tues 10/14  Homer’s *Iliad*.  Ch. 12
Tues 10/21  Homer’s *Odyssey*.  Ch. 13
First essay assigned
Tue 10/28  **Quiz (Chs. 12, 13)**
Introduction to Greek drama.  Ch. 14

Mythology in Tragic Drama

Tues 11/04  The House of Atreus and the *Oresteia*.  Ch. 15
First essay due
(Note: Tues 11/11 is Veterans Day; campus is closed)
Tues 11/18  Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*.  Ch. 16
Tues 11/25  Euripides’ *Medea* and *Bacchae*.  Ch. 17
Second essay assigned

Roman Mythology. The Legacy of Classical Mythology

Tues 12/2  The Roman world.  Ch. 18
Virgil’s *Aeneid*.  Ch. 19
Tues 12/9  Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*.  Ch. 20
Mythology in literature and the arts.  Ch. 21
Second essay due

Final Exam: Tuesday 12/16, 5:15-7:15 p.m.