

Hrs 119 Classical Mythology

Spring 2007

T/R 12:00-1:15 sec 2 MND 4004

3:00-4:15 sec 3 MND 4004

Professor Victoria Shinbrot

Office: 2014 Mendocino Hall

Office Hours: Tues.4:30-6:00, Thurs. 4:30-5:30

Email: vshinbrot@csus.edu

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 Sophocles 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. While most of the class will focus on classical antiquity we will also study modern adaptations of ancient myths in film and literature. By the end of the semester:

- Students will develop keen analytical skills through close and careful readings of the texts, thoughtful, well-written essays and class discussion.
- Students will understand how ancient classical myths transmit cultural values and ideas about gender, race and class and attempt to describe the human condition.
- Students will develop 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*, 4th Ed.

Homer, *The Odyssey* translated by S. 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, participate 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. Please do not schedule appointments that conflict or coincide with the scheduled meeting time of this class. Leaving early for an appointment will count as an unexcused absence.

In addition, doing other work in class, chatting with neighbors, answering cell phones, sending text messages, 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 One	20%
Midterm Two	30%
Essay	30%

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

Essays: Late papers will be marked down one grade and will not be accepted after one week of the due date. Essays sent to me as e-mail attachments will not be opened.

Plagiarism: Should you plagiarize intentionally or unintentionally regulations require that the assignment receive the grade of F and that the matter be referred to Student Affairs for further disciplinary action.

Please bring relevant books to each class meeting. Assignments must be completed by the date listed on the syllabus.

Week One:	
Tuesday, January 30th	Introduction
Thursday, February 1st	Introduction to Greece Continued
Week Two:	Please Read Chapter 3 <i>Theogony</i>
Tuesday, Feb., 6th	
Thursday, Feb., 8 th	Read Chapter 4 Prometheus Bound pp 133-142 and Byron's "Prometheus" pp. 1031
Week Three:	Read Chapters 5 <i>Goddess Worship</i>
Tuesday, Feb., 13th	
Thursday, Feb., 15th	Read Chapter 7 Apollo
Week Four:	Read Chapter 8 Dionysus
Tuesday, Feb., 20th	
Thursday, Feb., 22nd	Read Chapter 12 Homer's <i>Iliad</i>
Week Five:	Introduction to the Odyssey. Read Books 1-2
Tuesday, Feb., 27th	
Thursday, March 1st	Read The Odyssey Books 3-5
Week Six:	Read The Odyssey Books 6-10
Tuesday, March 6th	
Thursday, March 8th	Read The Odyssey Books 11-16

Week Seven: Tuesday, March 13th	Read The Odyssey Books 17-21
Thursday, March 15th	Read The Odyssey Books 22-24. Read Tennyson's "Ulysses" pp. 1033
Week Eight Tuesday, March 20th	The Odyssey concluded
Thursday, March 22nd	Midterm One
Week Nine: Tuesday, March 27th	Spring Break
Thursday, March 29th	Spring Break
Week Ten: Tuesday, April 3rd	Movie: Troy
Thursday, April 5th	Movie: Troy
Week Eleven: Tues, April 10th	Read Chapter 15 <i>Agamemnon</i>
Thursday, April 12th	Read Chapter 15 <i>The Eumenides</i>
Week Twelve: Tuesday, April 17th	Read Chapter 17 <i>Medea</i>
Thursday, April 19th	Medea continued
Week Thirteen: Tuesday, April 24th	Read Chapter 17 <i>The Bacchae</i>
Thursday, April 26th	Introduction to Rome
Week Fourteen: Tuesday, May 1st	Rome Continued
Thursday, May 3rd	Read Chapter 19 The Aeneid
Week Fifteen: Tuesday, May 8th	Read Chapter 20 Ovid's The Metamorphosis
Thursday, May 10th	Midterm Two
Week Sixteen Tuesday, May 15th	Film: Black Orpheus
Thursday, May 17th	Essay Due. No late papers will be accepted