

California State University, Sacramento  
HRS 119, sec. 3. Classical Mythology  
Spring 2008

R Diane Anderson, Instructor

Monday and Wednesday 4:00 to 5:15 PM, MND 4004

Office: MND 2030 Office Phone: (916) 278-6261 Press# 1 to leave a message for me

Open Office Hours: Monday, 2:00 to 3:00 PM

Tuesday: 12:00 to 1:00 PM, and by appointment

E-mail: [andersonrd@csus.edu](mailto:andersonrd@csus.edu)

- **Required Texts:**  
Greene, David and Richmond Lattimore. *Greek Tragedies, Vol. 2*  
Hesiod. *Works and Days, Theogony*. West, M. L., Trans.  
Homer. *The Odyssey of Homer*, Richmond Lattimore. Trans.  
*The Homeric Hymns*  
Ovid. *Metamorphoses*, Fenny and Raeburn, Trans.  
Zimmerman, John E. *The Dictionary of Classical Mythology*.  
and  
HRS119.3 Reader. Available soon. Location will be announced in class

THE ABOVE TEXTS ARE ON RESERVE AT THE CSUS LIBRARY

- Every student in this class is **REQUIRED** to join the class discussion and communication e-mail list known as listproc. The name of our listproc is HRS119S3-L
- **Course Description:** A study of Greek and Roman myths and their place in the art and literature of Western civilization. Myths of deities, nature, and of heroes and heroines will be studied from various perspectives. This course satisfies General Education Area C4.
- **Course Content:** Readings in the course include selections from Hesiod's *Theogony*, the *Homeric Hymns*, an Ovid's *Metamorphosis* along with entire plays written by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides and all of Homer's *Odyssey*. The course will also include the study and analyses of both ancient and modern sculpture and paintings, as well as movies and music, inspired by stories, themes and characters from Greek and Roman myth that survive and thrive in the modern world.
- **Writing Requirements and Testing:** Two papers are required for this class. The first paper is 3-4 pages in length and second, 5-6 pages in lengths. There will be two midterms and a final exam.
- **Learning Objectives:**  
The 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 that remains a vital part of our shared cultural vocabulary and, due to the very nature of myth, challenges us to consider the universal concerns and perspectives of the human condition. In addition, specific course objectives include:  
The development of analytical reading and oral communication skills through reading and discussion of a great variety of literature.  
An enhanced ability to understand classical mythology in its historical context, to identify and analyze the impact of myth on the literature, art, and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome as well as to the modern world.  
Virtually all aspects of the course will require students to use and enhance critical reasoning skills.

\*\*\* FOR GENERAL NOTES ON FORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, PLEASE SEE SEPARATE HANDOUT. \*\*\*

**LAPTOP POLICY:** Many discussions have included both the positive value and the negative distraction of using laptop computers in the classroom. And yet there is no consensus. Therefore each instructor must make his or her own policy. I will allow use of a lap top computer only with my personal approval. You must see me about using your laptop in class and make your case for permission to do so.

**ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY:** Students are expected to attend all sessions of the class, prepared to discuss the reading assignment for the day. It is necessary, both for your own education and as a courtesy to the other members of the class, to attend class regularly and punctually. An attendance sheet will be distributed for your signature at each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign this sheet. Numerous absences and/or chronic tardiness will adversely affect your participation grade. When applicable, I will implement the *Department Attendance Policy*.

**GRADING:**

Preparation & Participation	40 points	A = 100-93%	C = 76-73%
Midterm #1	50 points	A- = 92-90%	C- = 72-70%
Midterm #2	50 points	B+= 89-87%	D+= 69-67%
Paper # 1	50 points	B = 86-83%	D = 66-62%
Paper #2	60 points	B- = 82-80%	D- = 62-60%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>50 points</u>	C+ =79-77%	F = 59% & below
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>300 points</b>		

Details of the policy in regard to plagiarism are explained in the separate *Writing Guide* handout. However, the way in which plagiarism affects your grade is also included in this grading section.

If I determine through my own investigation that a student has committed an act of plagiarism, the student will receive an F on the writing assignment, the possibility of an F in the class and a referral to Student Affairs for possible university disciplinary action.

**SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to adjustments with appropriate prior notice \*\*\*\*\***

**Week 1**

Mon/Jan 28 Introduction to Classical Mythology

Wed/Jan 30 Subscribe through saclink *listproc* to the online class discussion group. The name of the class *listproc* is HRS119S3-L

Myth Making, Theory and Meaning  
Sources of Myth  
Myth, Religion and Philosophy

**Week 2**

Mon/Feb 4 Greek Creation Stories  
Readings: Hesiod Introduction pp. vii- mid xiii  
Hesiod's *Theogony*, pp. 3- 33  
Readings: Dictionary of Classical Mythology (DCM),  
Entries for the following: *Chaos (Chasm), Gaia, Tartarus, Eros, Erebus, Nyx (Night), Uranus, Titans, Cyclopes, Hecatonchires, Cronus (Kronos), Rhea Erinye*

- Wed/Feb 6            Greek Creation cont. Roman Creation Story  
*Homeric Hymns (HH)* Hymn to Gaia, the Mother of All; Hymn to Mother of the Gods  
 Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (META) pp. 5-9
- Week 3**  
 Mon/Feb 11            Creation of Humankind  
 Readings: Hesiod, Introduction, pp. mid xiii- xxi  
 Hesiod's *Works and Days*, pp. 37- mid 40.  
 META 5-9 (reread)  
 DCM: *Pandora, Iapetus, Prometheus, Epimetheus*
- Wed/Feb 13            Creation of Humankind cont.  
 Deterioration and Destruction of Humankind  
 Readings: Hesiod's *Works and Day*, pp. mid 40-42  
 META pp. 12-25 (The Giants, Lycaon, The Flood, Deucalion & Pyrrha)
- Week 4**  
 Mon/Feb 18            The Nature of Divinity  
 Zeus/Jupiter and Hera/Juno: Sky and Earth  
 Readings: HH *Zeus*, Hymn to the Son of Kronos, *Hera*; META 34-39 and 41-42  
 (Io), 67-73 (Callisto), 88-90(Europa), 105-107(Semele), (389) Ganymede  
 DCM: *Zeus, Jupiter, Hera, Juno*
- Wed/Feb 20            Children of Zeus/Jupiter  
 Readings: HH *The Muses*; DCM: *Dionysus, Eileithyia, Hebe, the Musae(Muses)*
- Week 5**  
 Mon/Feb 25            **MIDTERM EXAM #1**
- Wed/Feb 27            Crafts and Wisdom: Athena/Minerva and Hephaestus/Vulcan  
 Readings: HH *Hephaistos, Athena*  
 META: pp. 210-217 (Arachne)  
 DCM: *Athena, Minerva, Tritogeneia, Hephaestus, Vulcan*
- Week 6**  
 Mon/Mar 3            Love and War: Aphrodite/Venus and Ares/Mars  
 Readings: HH *Aphrodite, Ares*; META pp. 139-140 (Venus & Mars), 407-410  
 (Venus & Adonis)  
 DCM: *Aphrodite, Venus, Ares, Mars*
- Wed/Mar 5            The Sea and the Underworld  
 Readings: HH *Poseidon*; META pp. 433-435 (Peleus and Thetis)  
 DCM: *Poseidon, Neptune, Scylla (I), Charybdis, Thetis, Sirens, Hades, Charon, Cerebus, Lethe, Styx*

Week 7

Mon/Mar 10

**Public Space and Private Space: Hestia/Vesta and Hermes/Mercury**  
Readings: HH *Hestia* (x2), *Hermes* (x2), *Pan*; META 39-41 (Pan and Syrnix)  
DCM: *Hestia, Vesta, Hermes, Mercury*

Wed/Mar 12

**PAPER #1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**  
**Nature and Culture: Artemis/Diana and Apollo**  
Readings: HH *Artemis, Apollo, Asclepius*; META pp. 73-78 (Coronis), 99-104 (Actaeon), 217-225 (Niobe), 390-394 (Hyacinthus);  
DCM: *Artemis, Diana, Daphne, Apollo, Asclepius, Hyacinthus, Coronis, Pan*

Week 8

Mon/Mar 17

**Apollo cont.**  
*Worship of Apollo at Delphi* Lecture  
*The Worship of Asclepius at Epidaurus* Lecture

Wed/Mar 19

**Death and Rebirth: Demeter/Ceres and Dionysus/Bacchus**  
Readings: HH *Dionysus, Demeter* ; DCM: *Ceres, Demeter, Persephone, Dionysus, Pentheus, Triptolemus*  
*The Thesmophoria* Lecture  
*The Eleusinian Mysteries (Cult of Demeter and Persephone at Eleusis)* Lecture

Week 9

Mon/Mar 24

**Heroes**  
**The Primitive Hero: Heracles/Hercules**  
Readings: HH *Herakles*; META 346-352 (Hercules); DCM: *Heracles, Alcmena, Amphitryon, The 12 Labors* listed under *Heracles*

Wed/Mar 26

**MIDTERM EXAM #2**  
**March 31 to April 6 SPRING BREAK**

Week 10

Mon/Apr 7

**Epic Hero: The Trojan War**  
Readings: META pp. 497-515 (Achilles), DCM: *Achilles, Helen, Menelaus, Agamemnon, Paris, Hector, Andromache, Penthesilea*  
Virgil's Heroic Aeneas

Mon/Apr 9

**The Tragic Hero: Oedipus**  
Readings: Entire play *Oedipus Rex*  
Reader  
Discussion: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

Week 11

Mon/Apr 14

**Begin Homer's *Odyssey***  
Readings: Introduction, pp. 1-24 and Books 1-6

Wed/Apr 16

*Odyssey* Oral Presentations

**Week 12**

**Mon/Apr 21** *Odyssey* Oral Presentations cont.

**Wed/Apr 23** *Odyssey* Oral Presentations cont.

**Week 13**

**Mon/Apr 28** PAPER #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS  
*Odyssey* Oral Presentations cont.

**Wed/Apr 30** Greek Tragedy  
Readings: Greene and Lattimore *Greek Tragedies*  
Aeschylus' *The Libation Bearers*

**Week 14**

**Mon/May 5** Readings: Greene and Lattimore *Greek Tragedies*  
Sophocles' *Electra*

**Wed/May 7** Greek Tragedy cont.  
Readings: Greene and Lattimore *Greek Tragedies*  
Euripides' *Electra*

**Week 15**

**Mon/May 12** Euripides' *Medea*  
Reader

**Wed/May 14** Sophocles' *Antigone*  
Reader

**FINAL EXAM**

**When: Monday, May 19**

**Time: 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Where: MND 4004**