California State University Sacramento  
Humanities and Religious Studies  
HRS 119: Classical Mythology – G.E. Area C4  
Spring 2011

**Professor Judy Thoma**  
Section 1-Tuesday 6:00-8:50pm  
Mendocino 3013

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**Phone:** 278-7329  
**Office:** Mendocino 2026  
**Office Hours:** T 4:30-5:30 pm; M 3:00-4:00 pm and by appt.  
* I rarely answer my phone.  
* see +

**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:**

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)

**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 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 phones ringing, texting, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, disruptive behavior, playing on your computer, 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 Professor Thoma.

*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 (including the quiet ones!) equally important to the classroom dynamic.
Course grades are determined by the following:

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<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>20% Attendance and Participation†</td>
<td>60 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) ** (30 points each)</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<td>25% In-class writing assignment(s)/optional paper*** (30 and 45 points each)</td>
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<td>25% Final**- short essay and multiple choice</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>276-268</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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You should have come to see me long before it got to this point.

† The attendance and participation grade will include points accumulated by good attendance (15 pts), class discussion (15 pts), regular “journaling” (15 pts) and some miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (15 pts).

** All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writing assignments or the final. Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E, for the (2) writing assignments, plain notebook paper is fine—a bluebook is okay but not necessary. For the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

* You will have either two in-class writing assignments, or one in-class writing assignment and a paper—the choice will be yours. The first assignment will be worth 30 points and the second assignment will be worth 45 giving you a potential 75 points for this portion of your grade. The in-class writing assignments will be graded on a simple rubric (0-1- minimal or no effort, unfamiliar with the topic, 2- some basic ideas, 3-very good development in discussion of assigned topics and good use of information gained through the lectures and readings and 4-excellent application of knowledge and analysis of material including good creative interpretation.) Good writing skills will be important in presenting your ideas well, but emphasis will be on thinking rather than mechanics of writing. These assignments are not tests, but exercises in analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. No additional preparation beyond completing assigned readings and attentive presence in class should be necessary to do well on the writings.

More detailed instructions and guidelines will be given at the time of assignments.

The in-class writing assignment point conversion for the purposes of calculating your writing assignment grades will be as follows:

First writing assignment: 4 = 30 grade points; 3 = 25 grade points; 2 = 22 grade points; 1 = 15 grade points.

Second writing assignment: 4 = 45 grade points; 3 = 38 grade points; 2 = 32 grade points; 1 = 22 grade points.

Paper option: If you prefer, you may choose to substitute a traditional paper for the second in-class writing assignment. The paper will be MLA format, 3-4 pages in length and due before or on the date of the second writing assignment. The topic will be given to you upon request a week before the due date. You must turn in a hard copy-no email copies will be accepted for credit. I do check for plagiarism. Papers with plagiarized content, or papers obviously copied from others will be given zero points. The paper will be graded on a point scale: x/45.
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. 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.

Week 1
JAN 25 - 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), Chs. 1 and 2.

Week 2
FEB 1 - Read: H&P, Ch. 3- In the Beginning: Hesiod’s Creation Story
Read H&P, Ch. 5- Divine Women in Greek Mythology

Week 3
FEB 8 - Read: H&P, Ch. 6- The Olympic Pantheon
Quiz # 1→ (Chs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Week 4
FEB 15 - Read: H&P, Ch. 7- In Touch With the Gods: Apollo’s Oracle at Delphi
Read: H&P, Ch. 8- Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy
Activity: TBA

Week 5
FEB 22 - Read: H&P, Ch. 4- Alienation of the Human and Divine: Prometheus, Fire and Pandora
Read: H&P, Ch. 9- Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades
In-class writing assignment # 1

Week 6
MAR 1 - Read: H&P, Ch. 10 - Heroes of Myth

Week 7
MAR 8 - Read: H&P, Ch. 11- Heroines of Myth
Read: www.sacred-texts.com/cla - Adlington’s trans. of Apuleius’ tale of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche (found under the Classics heading, Roman.)
Quiz # 2→ (Chs. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Week 8
MAR 15 - Introduction to the Homeric Epics beginning with the Iliad.
Read: H&P, Ch. 12- Heroes at War; the Iliad Introduction to the Odyssey.
Read: H&P, Ch.13 - A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of Odysseus

Week 9
MAR 22 - SPRING BREAK! HAVE FUN! BE SAFE! (EASY ON THE DIONYSUS.)

Week 10
MAR 29 - Introduction to Greek Drama,
Read: H&P, Ch. 14- The Theater of Dionysus;
Quiz # 3→ (Chs. 10, 11, 12, 13 and the tale of Cupid and Psyche from sacred-texts.com)
### Week 11
**APRIL 5**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 15 - The House of Atreus: *the Oresteia* by Aeschylus  
  Read: H&P, Ch. 16 - The Tragic House of Laius: Sophocles' *Oedipus Cycle*

**Paper assignment given to those who choose this option over second in-class writing assignment. Ask!**

### Week 12
**APRIL 12**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 17 - A Different Perspective on Tragedy: Euripides' *Medea*

**In-class writing assignment # 2  OR  paper due today!**

### Week 13
**APRIL 19**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 17 - Euripides - *the Bacchae.*

**GREEK FEAST NIGHT!!!  WOW! FOOD + PARTICIPATION POINTS! I MUST BE IN A BACCHIC TRANCE!**

### Week 14
**APRIL 26**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 18 - The Roman Vision: Greek Myths and Roman Realities

### Week 15
**MAY 3**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 19 - Virgil's Roman Epic: *the Aeneid.*

**Quiz # 4→ (Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17)**

### Week 16
**MAY 10**  
- Read: H&P, Ch. 20 - The Retelling of Greek Myths: Ovid’s *Metamorphoses;*  
  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).

### Week 17
**MAY 17**  
- **FINAL EXAM – 5:15 PM**  
  - Essay and Multiple Choice (Scantron 886 E)

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**HAVE A CLASSICAL SUMMER!**  
(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOME APOLLO AND ATHENA TO GO ALONG WITH THAT DIONYSUS AND APHRODITE!)