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 and Additional Reading:
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).
There will be additional reading assignments posted online. Information regarding access will be forthcoming.

!Be wary of some "resources" on this subject due to its popularity with hobbyists who enjoy creating websites, developing opinions, drawing conclusions, etc...without necessarily applying good scholarship or referencing primary source material!

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 more importantly, 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 phone activity, playing on computers, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, disruptive behavior, etc... will affect your participation grade unfavorably.
If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, arrive late, etc..., please discuss with me.

*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 equally important to the classroom dynamic.

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in grade penalties or other serious consequences as per university policies. This can be devastating to your goals—don't do it!!!

Course grades are determined by the following:
20% - Attendance and Participation*: 60 points
25% - Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) **+ (25 points each) — 75 points
15% - Midterm writing assignment **- 45 points
15% - Paper (3-5 pages) — 45 points
25% - Final**- short essay and multiple choice — 75 points
100% — 300 points

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* The attendance and participation grade is determined by the following point distribution: good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (15 pts), reading responses and journaling (25 pts) and some miscellaneous "TBA" opportunities (10 pts).

** All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writings or the final. Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. If you absolutely need to leave during a quiz, writing assignment or final exam, you must turn your paper in before you leave the room and it will be graded based on work completed to that point.

+ For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E; for the Midterm you will need a bluebook (any size you are comfortable with is okay); for the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

□ The Midterm writing assignment is an exercise in primary source identification, analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. If you have completed assigned readings and have an attentive presence in class you will be well-prepared for the Midterm. More detailed information will be given closer to the assignment date.

(A final note about grading standards and results: A university course grade reflects (or should reflect!) performance which includes an expected level of mastery of the subject matter as well as a demonstration of level-appropriate critical thinking skills. Effort is essential but is not the same as performance. I recommend you evaluate what your understanding of the learning experience is and make sure it correlates with the process and requirements of this course.)
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

Check your Saclink email and BlackBoard often for updates, reminders and changes!

Course Calendar
All reading assignments are to be completed before the class week for which they are listed.

Week 1
Sept 4 - Introduction to the course and 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), Ch. 2.; Optional reading Ch. 1

Week 2
Sept 11 - An ancient poet complains about the old “ball and chain” and much more!!
Read: H&P, Ch. 3- In the Beginning: Hesiod’s Creation Story

Week 3
Sept 18 - “You always go right there!...blaming me for all the plagues and infestations of the world!” Pandora
Read: H&P, Ch. 4- Alienation of the Human and Divine: Prometheus, Fire and Pandora-
It wasn’t easy being female in the ancient Greek world...unless you were a goddess, but even then :[
H&P, Ch. 5- Divine Women in Greek Mythology

Week 4
Sept 25 - Zeus gets busy ... (and Hera is not okay with it!)
Read: H&P, Ch. 6- The Olympic Pantheon
H&P, Ch. 7- In Touch With the Gods: Apollo’s Oracle at Delphi
Quiz #1 – (Chs. 2, 3, 4, 5)

Week 5
Oct 2 - “Party like a Rockstar! Party like a Rockstar!”...you know the rest. Well, here is where it all started...
Read: H&P, Ch. 8- Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy

...and here is where it ends 🎉.
H&P, Ch. 9- Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades

Week 6
Oct 9- Manly gods and godly men...
Read: H&P, Ch. 10 - Heroes of Myth
Quiz #2 – (Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9)

Week 7
Oct 16 - ...and a few, okay, only one or two, women. For an explanation for the shortage, re-read Hesiod!
Read: H&P, Ch. 11- Heroines of Myth
www.sacred-texts.com/cla - Adlington’s trans. of Apuleius’ tale of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche (found under the Classics heading: Roman.)
Introduction to the Homeric Epics beginning with the Iliad. “It’s only a flesh wound!” Diomedes or the Black Knight
H&P, Ch. 12- Heroes at War, the Iliad

Week 8
Oct 23 – A hero for all times! Introduction to the Odyssey.
“ Well, Odysseus, I don’t know if we really see “eye to eyes” on this bargain. What’s your stake in this?” Cyclops.
“Since you ask—olive wood.” Odysseus.
Read: H&P, Ch.13- A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of Odysseus
Week 9
Oct 30 – Midterm writing assignment!! No makeups for this!!

Week 10
Nov 6 - “What happens at the Dionysia stays at the Dionysia!” Dionysus
Read: H&P, Ch. 14 (through page 515)!- The Theater of Dionysus

Week 11
Nov 13 - Cannibalism, incest, patricide, adultery, deception... No! Not Real Housewives of Orange County!
   ... the original dysfunctional families.
Read: H&P, Ch. 15- The House of Atreus: the Oresteia by Aeschylus
   H&P, Ch. 16- The Tragic House of Laus: Sophocles’ Oedipus Cycle

Quiz #3 → (Chs. 10, 11, 12, 13 and the tale of Cupid and Psyche from sacred-texts.com)

Week 12
Nov 20 - Oh, sad Euripides! How could you have known Jerry Springer would steal your ideas from Medea?!?
Read: H&P, Ch. 17- A Different Perspective on Tragedy: Euripides’ Medea?!?
   H&P, Ch. 14 (pp 516-581)-Euripides- the Bacchae.
Handout for paper assignment!

Week 13
Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday Break! See special assignment below! No class meeting! Have a good time!
Special Assignment! Special Assignment! Special Assignment! Special Assignment! Special Assignment!
Eat: Turkey (try to find the biggest turkey you can-like 30 pounder!) with Mashed Potatoes, cranberries and yams---with your hands
   in your backyard. Ritualistically pour gravy on each other’s heads.
Watch: Your neighbors’ faces as your family members tear the turkey apart with their hands and throw the pieces across the yard at
each other to enjoy.
Dance: Follow feast with banging on metal trash can lids with BBQ tools (or playing old Slayer or ICP cds) and dancing* in a crazy
   circle around pine trees (you may substitute a couple of those fake Christmas trees, but make sure you plant them in the ground—it’s
   going to get crazy.)
Drink: If you are over 21 and are not planning on operating heavy machinery, (including but not limited to cars, motorcycles, boats or
   airplanes, or light machinery including but not limited to surgical tools, chainsaws, children’s story books, spoons or neckties,) enjoy a
   small vat or barrel of wine.
   * If you are lucky enough to have them, wear old animal skins instead of clothes. And for more specific dance instructions watch that old
   Seinfeld episode where Elaine ‘dances’ at the office party...trust me-this will all make sense to you by this time in the semester.
Mwhaaahahahahahaha. And “no”, of course this isn’t a required assignment (I have been asked that question, believe it or not)...but
who wouldn’t want to do this????!! Hah! JK. ’I guess it’s fine if you want to enjoy your Thanksgiving in a more traditional fashion :/

Week 14
Dec 4 The Romans are coming! It was only a matter of time, and, well...very, very large armies.
Read: H&P, Ch. 18- The Roman Vision: Greek Myths and Roman Realities.
Quiz #4 → (Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17)

Week 15
Dec 11 - Virgil is no fool-he knows “which side to butter, or rather, olive oil his bread on!” Ovid on the other hand...
Read: H&P, Ch. 19- Virgil’s Roman Epic - the Aeneid
   and (if we are caught up) H&P, Ch. 20- The Retelling of Greek Myths: Ovid’s Metamorphoses;
   as time allows, discussion of mythical elements in Petronius’s “Dinner with Trimalchio” from the
   Salyricon, chapt. 5, and the Golden Ass by Apuleius (both readings accessed in sacred-texts.com under the ‘Classics’ heading).

Week 16
Dec 18 - FINAL EXAM! − 5:15 pm − 7:15 pm Short Essay and Multiple Choice (Scantron 886 E)

Hand in paper assignment at the beginning of class!

HAVE A GREAT BREAK!