Professor Judy Thoma  
Section 2  Thurs 6-8:50pm  
Mendocino Hall 1003  

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+ I rarely answer my office 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 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).  
Optional but recommended!: Homer, *Odyssey*, translated by Stanley Lombardo, Hackett 2000. This is the full version of the *Odyssey* excerpted in your required text, however, there are other translations (Fagles; Fitzgerald) widely available online and used.  
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, come 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 very detrimental to your goals-don’t do it!!!

Course grades are determined by the following:

18% - Attendance and Participation‡ 55 points
25% - Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) **+ (25 points each) 75 points
17% - Mid-term writing assignment ** (50 points)
15% - Paper (3-5 pages) 45 points
25% - Final**- short essay and multiple choice 75 points

100% 300 points

A  300-277 points
A- 276-268 points
B+ 267-261 points
B  260-246 points
B- 245-237 points
C+ 236-230 points
C  229-216 points
C- 215-206 points
D+ 205-199 points
D  198-186 points
D- 185-175 points

It is your responsibility as a committed student to keep track of your point total and manage your study habits accordingly. This will eliminate grade "surprises" at the end of the semester.

‡ The attendance and participation grade is determined by the following point distribution: accumulated by good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (10 pts), reading responses and journaling (25 pts) and some exciting miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (10 pts).

** New Makeup Policies for Spring 2015! Please take note! 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.) Due to excessive requests for makeups the following policies will be strictly adhered to: Requests will be considered and granted on a case by case basis only when extenuating circumstances or medical issues are documented. All quiz/midterm makeups granted will be taken in the CSUS Testing Center. Students are responsible for making arrangements and paying fees. No final exams will be given before finals week. No exceptions.

+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 exam date.
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

**HRS 119-2 Reading and Assessment Calendar SPRING 15**

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

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**Week 1 JAN 29**

- 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), Ch. 2; **optional reading** Ch. 1.

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**Week 2 FEB 5**

- 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

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**Week 3 FEB 12**

- “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  
H&P, Ch. 5- Divine Women in Greek Mythology

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**Week 4 FEB 19**

- Zeus gets busy! …(and Hera is not okay with it!)

*Read:* H&P, Ch. 6- The Olympic Pantheon  
**Quiz #1** (Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

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**Week 5 FEB 26**

- Let’s meet someone even Kanye is jealous of…

*Read:* H&P, Ch. 7- In Touch With the Gods: Apollo’s Oracle at Delphi  
And who can forget the classic, “Party like a Rockstar! Party like a Rockstar!”?…you know the rest. Here is where it all started…  
H&P, Ch. 8- Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy

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**Week 6 MAR 5**

- …and here is where it all ends 🙈

*Read:* H&P, Ch. 9- Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades  
**Quiz #2** (Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9)

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**Week 7 MAR 12**

- “Wow, it’s true, Medusa IS fugly!” *Perseus*  
Manly gods or godly men?…some semi-divine heroes of classical myth!  
*Read:* H&P, Ch. 10 - Heroes of Myth  
… and a few, okay, only one or two, heroic women. For an explanation of the shortage, re-read Hesiod!  
H&P, Ch. 11- Heroines of Myth  
*Optional but recommended:* [www.sacred-texts.com/cla](http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla); Adlington’s trans. of Apuleius’ tale of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche (found under the Classics heading, “Roman.”)

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**Week 8 MAR 19**

- Introduction to the Homeric Epics beginning with the *Iliad.*

*Read:* H&P, Ch. 12 Heroes at War; the *Iliad*  
**Midterm Writing Assignment (in-class)**

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**Week 9 MAR 26-**

**SPRING BREAK! SPRING BREAK!**  
HAVE FUN! BE SAFE! READ!
**Week 10  APR 2-**

- A hero for all times! Introduction to the *Odyssey.*

  *Here is something to think about: If you were a modern Odysseus on a quest across America, where would the Land of the Lotus-Eaters be?*

**Read:** H&P, Ch.13- A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of Odysseus

Now is the time to read the full version of the *Odyssey* if you have time-I recommend it!

*Online assignment posted on BlackBoard! If BlackBoard fails, assignment will be sent via SacSend. Due on April 7th!*

**Week 11  APR 9**

- Following Odysseus around continued…

  Introduction to Greek Drama: “What happens at the Dionysia stays at the Dionysia!”  *Dionysus*

**Read:** H&P, Ch. 14 (only through page 517) - The Theater of Dionysus

**Quiz # 3 → (Chs. 10, 11, 12, 13)**

**Week 12  APR 16**

- One day at the cell phone company Oedipus shops for a new plan: “Okay, now I want that friends and family discount; so this is my mother and wife, and my sisters are my daughters and there are my two sons who are also my brothers… and oh, that dead guy is my father and my kids’ grandfather and step-father or…hmmm…let’s start over…the dead guy is…wait, uh, can I just get unlimited minutes???”

  - 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 Laius: Sophocles’ Oedipus Cycle

**Week 13  APR 23**

Oh sad Euripides! How could you know Jerry Springer would steal material from your *Medea???*

**Read:** H&P, Ch. 17-A Different Perspective on Tragedy… Euripides- *Medea.* (Jason, you might want to think twice before you ditch your baby mama for a trophy wife.)

H&P, Ch. 14 (pp 517-581) - *the Bacchae* (Yeah, this is going to be messy.)

**Additional Assignment!** Eat with your family, or fellow cult members: a turkey (try to find the biggest turkey you can-like a 30 pounder! ) and mashed potatoes, cranberries and yams—with your hands in your backyard. Ritualistically pour gravy on each others’ heads. *Watch:* Your neighbors’ faces (they will be hiding in their houses and peeking from behind curtains) as your family members tear the turkey apart with their hands and throw the pieces violently at each other to enjoy. *Dance:* Follow feast with banging on metal trash can lids with BBQ tools (or playing old *Slayer, ICP or any Scandinavian death metal band cds*) and dancing* in a crazy circle around pine trees. *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, children's story books, spoons or neckties), enjoy a small vat or barrel of wine. This assignment is much easier accomplished in November, however, you may substitute one of those giant turkey sandwiches from ToGos if no whole turkeys are available.

* If you 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. Mwhaa-hahahahahaha! No, of course this isn’t a required assignment, and yes, I have been asked that question.

**Week 14  APR 30**

- 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 …

*Hand out topic for Analysis Paper this week! Paper due May 21st at the beginning of class period.*

**Week 15  MAY 7**

- Virgil is no fool-he knows “which side to butter (or “olive oil”?) his bread on!”

**Read:** H&P, Ch. 19- Virgil's Roman Epic: - *the Aeneid*

** Quiz # 4 (Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17)**

**Week 16  MAY 14**

- Ovid on the other hand…More Roman poetry and semester wrap-up…

**Read:** 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 *Satyricon,* chapt. 5, and *the Golden Ass* by Apuleius (both readings accessed in sacred-texts.com under the ‘Classics’ heading).

**Week 17  MAY 21**

**FINAL EXAM – 5:15-7:15 pm**

►Hand in Analysis Paper at the beginning of class!

☺☺☺ HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! ☺☺☺