CSUS Catalogue description of HRS 119-Classical Mythology: Study of Greek and Roman myths and hero tales and their place in the arts and literature of Western civilization. Also provides an introduction to the general nature and function of myth.

Additional information about this section:
We will consider how literature and art from ancient Greece and Rome reflects various social roles and patterns 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 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. This is a lecture-based course, however, classroom discussion and interaction is encouraged to promote student engagement with the course materials and topics.

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 on Blackboard. Information regarding access will be forthcoming.

N.B.! Be wary of some “resources” on mythology due to the subject’s popularity with hobbyists (and the entertainment industry) who enjoy creating websites, tv shows, video games, developing opinions, drawing conclusions, etc…without necessarily applying good scholarship or referencing primary source material!

Course Learning Outcomes:
Successful students will:
- acquire and demonstrate sophisticated knowledge of Classical mythology- its principal narratives and "players"- by careful study of representative poems, plays and the visual arts of ancient Greek and Roman cultures.
- describe, investigate and analyze primary source material in visual arts and writings, and develop an appreciation for the integration and influence of Classical myth in human cultural development.
- comprehend the function of Classical Mythology as an expression of universal human experience and compare the ideas communicated by ancient Greek and Roman cultures to other worldviews about human origins, purpose and our relationship to both the material and the metaphysical worlds.
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Classical Mythology in the historical context. This includes recognizing the presence and influence of the central ideas and themes of Classical Mythology in the present as well as the past and comparing these ideas and themes to those of other world cultures across time and place.
**Requirements and Grading:**

Careful, 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. This is an upper division course and students will be expected to read and write at the appropriate college level. By regular attendance, maintaining the reading schedule and completing writing assignments, students will advance their skills of critical analysis in reading and writing.

*Note:* Our goal at CSUS is your success! The university has many services available for students who require assistance or have special needs. If you are unsure of who to contact regarding such assistance, please email or see me for more information and I will be happy to direct you to the appropriate office or department. And of course, this information will be transmitted confidentially.

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 great 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. Shyness can be debilitating, but it can be overcome with practice and support!

**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!!! It isn’t worth the risk and — it’s wrong!!!

Course grades are determined by the following:

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+ The attendance and participation grade is determined by the following point distribution: good attendance (10 pts), class discussion (10 pts), in-class reading responses (25 pts) and some truly exciting miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (5 pts).

+ For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E; for the Midterm and Final exam you will need Scantron 886-E.

**New Makeup Policies! Please take note!** All exams and quizzes 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 in recent semesters, 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 (of requests granted) will be taken in the CSUS Testing Center. Students are responsible for making arrangements ahead of time, coordinating with me and paying T.C. fees.

No Final Exams will be given before Finals Week.
Course Calendar:
All reading assignments are to be completed before the class week for which they are listed.

Week 1 – 1/27
Welcome and Course introduction!

Week 2 – 2/3
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.

Week 3 – 2/10
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 4 – 2/17
“Oh, Okay, there it is!!! 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- The Great Goddess and Goddesses: Divine Women in Greek mythology
Quiz # 1→ (Chs. 2, 3, 4, 5)

Week 5 – 2/24
Zeus gets busy! ... (and Hera is not okay with it!)
Read: H&P, Ch. 6- The Olympian Pantheon

Week 6 – 3/2
Let’s meet someone even Kanye is jealous of... the actual god of light, knowledge, exceptional talent and good looks...and his counterpart- the originator of the true “Party like a Rockstar! Party like a Rockstar!” ... yep, this is where the party started!...
Read: H&P, Ch. 7- In Touch With the Gods: Apollo's Oracle at Delphi
H&P, Ch. 8- Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy

Week 7 – 3/9
...and here is where it all ends 😳...uh, sorry about that!
Read: H&P, Ch. 9- Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades
Quiz # 2→ (Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9)

Week 8 – 3/16
Manly gods and godly men... ... and a few, okay, only one or two, heroic women. For an explanation for the shortage, re-read Hesiod. ;/
Read: H&P, Ch. 10- Heroes of Myth
H&P, Ch. 11- Heroines of Myth

Midterm | No Makeups—see makeup policy on syllabus “Requirements and Grading.”

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK!!!!
Optional reading: www.sacred-texts.com/cla: Adlington's trans. of Apuleius' tale of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche (found under the Classics heading, "Roman.")

Week 10 – 3/30
An introduction to the Homeric Epics beginning with the Iliad.
Read: H&P, Ch. 12 Heroes at War; the Iliad
Week 11—4/6
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? Why??*

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

**Quiz #3** (Chs. 10, 11, 12)

Week 12—4/13
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

**Topic for paper assignment handed out today!**

Week 13—4/20
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*
H&P, Ch. 16- The Tragic House of Laius: Sophocles' Oedipus Cycle.

Week 14—4/27
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.
H&P, Ch. 14 (pp 517-581) *The Bacchae*

**Quiz #4** (Chs. 13, 14, 15, 16)

Week 15—5/4
The Romans are coming! It was only a matter of time, oh, and...very, very large armies.

Read: H&P, Ch. 18- The Roman Vision: Greek Myths and Roman Realities;
H&P, Ch. 19- Virgil's Roman Epic: *the Aeneid*

Week 16—5/11
Oh, Ovid...what a character. If you were with us today you might be writing for *the Onion*, or at least Jon Stewart.

Summary and catch-up; review for Final Exam

Read: H&P, Ch. 20- *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—5/18 – Note time! 5:15-7:15
**FINAL EXAM and Paper Final Copy due today at beginning of class session!**

*Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the professor.*
*Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.*