



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri
Email: tgzzarri@memphis.edu
Class meets: MW 12:40-2:05 PM
Location: MN 320
Office: JO 108-I
Office hour: MW 11:20-12:20 and by appointment
Mailbox: JO 108 (1st floor)

Description of the course

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to classical mythology. Both literary and material sources will be considered. The myths of the Greeks and the Romans will be examined from different perspectives, such as their historical context, their social relevance, their religious significance and their implications in terms of gender and sexuality. The topics targeted will include, but will not be limited to, myths of creation and destruction, Olympian deities, myths of fertility, myths of death and heroic figures. In the last section of the course we will explore how Western literature has frequently reworked ancient myth in ways that are significant both to ancient and modern culture. Regular quizzes will test your mastery of reading and lecture material. The mid-term exam will be administered on 10/16/13. The date of the final exam is TBD. Regular discussions will develop from the problems presented by the texts at hand; participation and attendance in class are therefore of paramount importance.

Course schedule

Lecture 1 - 08/26/13

Lecture 2 - 08/28/13

Lecture 3 - 09/04/13

Lecture 4 - 09/09/13

Lecture 5 - 09/11/13

Lecture 6 - 09/16/13

MAIN COORDINATES

Introduction - What is mythology?

The cultural contexts: Greece and Rome

Outside Greece and Rome

MYTHS OF CREATION

Myths of creation I

Myths of creation II

THE OLYMPIANS

Zeus

Lecture 7 - 09/18/13	Male Olympians - QUIZ #1
Lecture 8 - 09/23/13	Female Olympians
	<u>MYTHS OF FERTILITY AND DEATH</u>
Lecture 9 - 09/25/13	Demeter and Persephone
Lecture 10 - 09/30/13	Dionysus
Lecture 11 - 10/02/13	The underworld
	<u>HEROES AND LEGENDS</u>
Lecture 12 - 10/07/13	Gilgamesh: introduction to heroic myth
Lecture 13 - 10/09/13	Perseus
Lecture 14 - 10/16/13	MIDTERM EXAM
Lecture 15 - 10/21/13	Theseus
Lecture 16 - 10/23/13	Theseus
Lecture 17 - 10/28/13	Crete
Lecture 18 - 10/30/13	Thebes
Lecture 19 - 11/04/13	Jason
Lecture 20 - 11/06/13	The Trojan war
Lecture 21 - 11/11/13	After Troy
Lecture 22 - 11/13/13	Odysseus - QUIZ #2
	<u>ROME</u>
Lecture 23 - 11/18/13	Aeneas
Lecture 24 - 11/20/13	Legends of early Rome I
Lecture 25 - 11/25/13	Legends of early Rome II

META-MYTH

Lecture 26 - 11/27/13	Theories of myth interpretation
Lecture 27 - 12/02/13	Myth in a contemporary context -
Lecture 28 - 12/04/13	Myth and literature -- Final remarks.

Required texts (available from the bookstore)

- Hesiod, *Theogony and Works and Days*, trans. M. L. West, (Oxford World's Classics) 1988, ISBN 978-0-19-953831-7
- Aeschylus, *The Oresteia: Agamemnon; The Libation Bearers; The Eumenides*, trans. R. Fagles, intr. R. Fagles and W. B. Stanford, (Penguin Classics) 1975, ISBN 978-0-14-044333-2
- Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*, trans. R. Fagles, intr. B. Knox, (Penguin Classics) 1982, ISBN 978-0-14-044425-4
- Euripides, *Medea and Other Plays*, trans. J. Davie, intr. R. Rutherford, (Penguin Classics) 2003, ISBN 978-0-14-044929-7
- Apollodorus: The Library, Volume I: Books 1-3.9, Loeb Classical Library no. 121, (1921- 6th edition), ISBN 978-0674991354
- Apollodorus: The Library, Volume I: Books 3-10.16, Loeb Classical Library no. 122, (1921- 6th edition), ISBN 978-0674991361

Online resources (free)

- www.theoi.com
- <http://homepage.mac.com/cparada/GML/>

**Iphone/ipod apps** (optional)

Mythology Greek - Ancient Greek Mythology

Myth Glossary - Roman Mythology

Roman Gods - Greek Gods





Course requirements

Attendance

Regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected.

Quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. Make-up exams will only be given if a medical or family emergency arises, and the Dean of Students office notifies me.

Grades

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Attendance and participation | 20% |
| • Quizzes | 20% |
| • Midterm exam | 30% |
| • Final exam | 30% |

Grading Scale

	A 94–99	A- 90–93
B+ 87–89	B 84–86	B- 80–83
C+ 77–79	C 74–76	C- 70–73
D+ 67–69	D 64–66	D- 60–63
F 59 and below		

Exam dates

Quiz #1	Lecture 7 (09/18/13)
Quiz #2	Lecture 22 (11/13/13)
Mid-term exam:	Lecture 14 (10/16/13)
Final Exam:	TBD

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty of any kind is not tolerated at Union College. The penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic fraud are severe. The College expects you to resist the temptations and pressures that may lead you to consider plagiarism or other forms of cheating. If you are not certain about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructors. But the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism is ultimately yours, and yours alone.

Academic Misconduct

The purpose of a university education is to learn. Cheating, plagiarizing, and other acts of dishonesty do not contribute to learning. They are, rather, attempts to avoid learning that defeat the very purpose of education. They are rightly regarded as both unethical and illegal under the academic standards of The University of Memphis.

For more details about the University policies please refer to:

http://www.memphis.edu/history/misconduct_policy.htm

Student Disability Services

Any student who may need class or test accommodations based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. Students with disabilities should also contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 110 Wilder Tower, 678-2880. SDS coordinates accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Cell phone use is prohibited in class

