

HIST 214: Classical Mythology
Spring, 2009

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Comenius Hall 308

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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00, TR 10:00-11:00

Course Goals:

By the end of this course I hope that you will:

1. Know in reasonable detail
 - a. The outline and chief characters, divine and human, of the major Greek myths,
 - b. The main types of evidence for the study of classical mythology,
 - c. Several Greek plays in which myths figure prominently.
2. Understand in broad terms how some of the main features of Greek culture (including politics, religion, the law, and the family) are represented in myths.
3. Be able to describe and illustrate the most important characteristics of various approaches to the study of myths, including feminism, structuralism and psychoanalysis.
4. Understand more fully issues involved in historical research on all topics (among them Classical Mythology), including:
 - a. The distinction between primary and secondary sources,
 - b. The conventions of historical writing.

Required Texts:

Mark P. O. Morford & Robert J. Lenardon. *Classical Mythology*. 7th ed. NY & Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2003. ISBN 0-19-515344-8

Stephen Esposito, ed. *Euripides: Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles, Bacchae*. Focus Classical Library. Newburyport MA: Focus Publishing/R. Pullins Company. 2004. ISBN 1-58510-048-X

David Grene & Richmond Lattimore, *Aeschylus I: Oresteia. Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, & The Eumenides. The Complete Greek Tragedies.* Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. 1953. ISBN 0-226-30778-6.

Graded Assignments:

Quizzes:	10%
Mini-essays	10%
Midterm exam:	15%
First paper:	15%
Second paper:	20%
Final exam:	20%
Class participation:	10%

Attendance Policy:

You have 2 – and only 2 – unexcused absences in this course. I take attendance in class each day (chiefly because I want to learn everyone's names), and I will know if you are missing.

Only if you are unable to attend class will your absence be excused. Acceptable reasons include a health issue (which must be documented by a doctor) or another emergency sufficient to warrant the absence. In all cases I will decide whether or not your absence is excusable.

Missing class is a bad idea, even if you take an excused cut. Someone else's notes do not compensate for the discussion or other activities in which you did not participate. Material covered in class figures prominently in examinations.

For each unexcused absence beyond 2 your class participation grade will be reduced 1 point. Please be careful: 1 point from 100 can be the difference between a C and a D, and if you miss many classes you might lose as many as 10 points.

All assignments are due in class on the announced day. Overdue assignments will be reduced one letter grade per day.

Examinations may be made up only if the absence is excused.

Academic Honesty:

Be sure to review Moravian's Policy on Academic Honesty, which is printed in the Student Handbook. If there is reason to believe that you have not carried out any part of the policy, I will refer the case to the Academic Affairs office for investigation and possible action.

Except while writing examinations and quizzes you are welcome to speak with classmates and others about any aspect of the course that interests or concerns you. (In written assignments be sure to acknowledge their assistance explicitly in your text or notes.) But no one else – not your girlfriend or boyfriend or parents – should do your work for you. You must write your own papers, for example, even if you ask others (e.g., a

tutor at the Writing Center) to critique a draft. As the Academic Honesty policy provides, you must be able to document that you have done all stages of the work on assignment yourself.

Plagiarism will be punished by a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, depending on the seriousness of the offense as determined by the instructor.

Assignments:

1/19	Introduction to course; survey of Greek history
1/21	ML 3: Myths of creation. <i>Genesis</i> 1.1 – 2.3 Discussion, “The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs.”
1/26	ML 4: Zeus’ rise to power; creation of mortals
1/28	ML 5: The twelve Olympians; Zeus, Hera and children
2/2	ML 6: Nature of the gods
2/4	ML 7: Poseidon, sea deities
2/9	ML 8: Athena
2/11	Quiz 1 ML 9: Aphrodite and Eros
2/16	ML 10: Artemis
2/18	ML 11: Apollo “Homeric Hymn” due
2/23	ML 12: Hermes
2/25	Visit to Reeves Library: meet at Reference Desk.
3/9	ML 13: Dionysus
3/11	ML 14: Demeter & Eleusinian Mysteries
3/16	Midterm Examination
3/18	ML 15: The afterlife
3/23	Introduction to Greek tragedy Read Roger Dunkle’s piece at http://ablemedia.com/ctcweb/netshots/tragedy.htm
3/25	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
3/30	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i> , cont’d. Part 1 of paper due
4/1	Aeschylus, <i>Libation Bearers</i>
4/6	Aeschylus, <i>Libation Bearers</i> , cont’d.
4/8	Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i>

4/15	Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i> , cont'd. Part 2 of paper due
4/20	<i>Quiz 2</i> Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
4/22	Euripides, <i>Medea</i> , cont'd.
4/27	Euripides, <i>Hippolytus</i>
4/29	Euripides, <i>Hippolytus</i> , cont'd. Paper due (parts 1, 2 & 3)