



CL/AH 265 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY: GODS AND HEROES OF GREECE AND ROME

IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

The course offers an introduction to Greek and Roman myths, legends and sagas that occupy an important place in Western culture as manifest in art, philosophy, religion and music. Timeless themes of love and war are woven together with those of family ties and friendship, lost innocence, guile, intrigues and ruthless revenge in an interdisciplinary approach to ancient literature's dialogue with the fine arts. Using English translations of Homer, Virgil, Ovid, and of other classical authors, the course brings to the fore interpretations of ancient myths across media, with special emphasis on the context of Rome. It surveys the reception and appropriation of myths over the ancient, Renaissance, Baroque and modern periods, exploring frescoed villas, papal palaces and their collections of masterful paintings and sculptural groups.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Visual presentations
- Course-related trips to archaeological sites, monuments and museums
- Student presentations
- Moodle

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation (10%)
- Oral presentation (10%)
- Research paper (25%)
- Mid-term exam (25%)
- Final exam (30%)

*Details of required work:

Format of the exam: Both midterm and final exams are composed of different sections which are true/false answers, multiple choice, picture identification, open questions and short essays.

Presentation: The topic of the presentation is chosen with the professor on a subject studied in class.

Report: research page of 8/12 pages based on the topic of the presentation.

Grading Rubric for student participation:

A	Excellent participation The student's contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that he or she has been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course, and with his or her own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. He/she respectfully states his/her reactions about other classmates' opinions, and is capable of contributing to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities.
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B	Very good participation The student's contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student is able to construct over others' contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. He/she is respectful of others' ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy.
C	Regular participation The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography, but in a superficial way. He/she tries to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provides comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand.
F	Insufficient participation Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way, and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss the main myths and sagas of Greco-Roman civilization
- Identify myths and characters in ancient and modern artworks (visual arts and music);
- Appreciate the importance of Classical mythology in both ancient and modern art
- Appreciate the significance of Classical mythology and its impact on Western civilizations
- Get acquainted with the main ancient and modern sources in order to continue research on the topic

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	From universal chaos to divine order	
Session 1	Overview. The creation of Gods	Textbook: pp. 1-19.
Session 2	Titans, Giants and the supremacy of Zeus	Textbook: pp. 21-51.
Week 2	The Olympians and other major deities I	
Session 3	Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Aphrodite and Eros	
Session 4	Apollo, Artemis, Athena, Ares, Hephaistos	Textbook pp. 52-97; 516-517 (Athena and Arachne); 520-521 (Apollo and Daphne); 158-161 (Io and Argos).
Week 3	The Olympians and other major deities II	

Session 5	Hermes, Dionysos, Hades and the Underworld, Pan, The Dioskouroi	
Session 6	Course-related trip: Museo dell'arte classica (Università Sapienza)	Textbook: pp. 97-125
Week 4	The First Humans	
Session 7	Prometheus and Pandora	
Session 8	Course-related trip: Galleria Borghese	Textbook: pp.126-135.
Week 5	Trojan War; Odysseus and his Odyssey	
Session 9	The Trojan War (highlights); Odysseus	
Session 10	Odysseus (2 nd part)	Textbook: pp. 301-382; 390-426 <u>MANDATORY ACADEMIC DAYTRIP TO SPERLONGA:</u> March 10th
Week 6		
Session 11	Review	
Session 12	Midterm	
	SPRING BREAK	
Week 7	Niobe . Heracles	
Session 13	Niobe and Her Children. Heracles	
Session 14	Course-related trip: Villa Medici	Textbook: p.270-271 (Niobe); 184-228 (Heracles); 554-557 (Heracles, Alkestis and Admetos).
Week 8	Heracles (end) –	
Session 15	Heracles (part II)	
Session 16	Course-related trip: Galleria Doria Pamphili	
Week 9	Dangerous Women	

Session 17	Clytemnestra; Elektra. Highlights from the opera <i>Elektra</i> by R. Strauss	Textbook: p. 446-451; p. 460-465.
Session 18	Course-related trip: Palazzo Altemps	
Week 10	Aeneas and the Destiny of Rome	Textbook: pp.478-497.
Session 19	Aeneas	
Week 11	The Foundation of Rome	Textbook: p. 498-506.
Session 20	Romulus and Remus, Livy and early Rome	
Session 21	Course-related trip: Musei Capitolini (PRESENTATIONS)	
Week 12	Metamorphoses; Myths of Love and Death	Textbook : Phaiton; Poliphemos, Akis and Galatea; Kallisto and Arkas; Psyche and Cupid; Orpheus and Eurydice (pp. 507-509; 531-532; 517-519; 546-550; 551-534).
Session 22	Course-related trip: Villa Farnesina (PRESENTATIONS)	
Week 13	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

In the following course-related trips, monuments and museums will be approached by focusing mainly on the specific related subject examined in class:

- Museo dell'Arte Classica
- Galleria Borghese
- Villa Medici
- Palazzo Altemps
- Palazzo Pamphili
- Musei Capitolini
- Villa Farnesina

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Jenny March, *The Penguin Book of Classical Myths*, Penguin Book, London 2009.
- MOODLE: Selected passages from
 - Hesiod, *Theogony*
 - Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
 - Homer, *Iliad*
 - Homer, *Odyssey*
 - Virgil, *Aeneid*
 - Hyginus, *Fabulae*