CLAS 1500 Classical Mythology

http://myweb.ecu.edu/stevensj/

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Office: Ragsdale 133
Office Hours: Same day email response; available via WebEx by appt.

Course Objectives:

- Knowledge of: the names of the gods in Greek and Roman mythic traditions, their attributes, the main topics of myth (theogony, the hero, descents to the underworld, the Trojan war cycle) and of the primary authors and texts for classical myths. Ability to recognize gods and their attributes in works of art.
- Understanding of the main uses of myth, to explain causes (aetiological), often through cosmology (an account of the universe), theogony (genealogy of the gods), or etymology (nomen/omen – one’s name is one’s fate); and by allegory to explain aspects of human nature (psychology).
- Appreciation of the differences between myth and religion/philosophy (poetic truth of fiction vs. belief in truth; mythos vs. logos), and of the problems of anachronism (judging the ancient world by modern standards).
- Analysis of the applied uses of mythology, e.g., the Trojan war as a study of man’s relationship to the city (political philosophy); foundation myths that portray the cultural ideals of a city (iconography); philosophical myths that imagine what lies beyond experience (metaphysics) such as the soul, god, and death, etc.

GenEd Objectives:

- **Knowledge of Classical Humanities.** Students can describe the cultural ideals of Classical civilizations found in texts related to mythology.
- **Close Reading of Classical Texts.** Students can perform a close reading and contextualization of texts, or close study of artifacts of material culture for their elements related to mythology.
- **Evaluation of Classical Cultures.** Students can use the critical skills of the discipline of Classics to identify and evaluate analytically the values and world view of classical cultures exemplified in myth and how they resemble and differ from our own.

Links to online daily readings are provided. For reference I have ordered an optional text: Robert Graves, *The Greek Myths*, Complete Edition (Viking Penguin 1993) 0-14-017199-1

Assignments and Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>A 93-100, A- 90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 (units 1-7)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 2 (units 8-15)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72</td>
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<td>D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62 F 0-59</td>
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All assignments and course materials are in Canvas. This is a self-paced course: for each unit there is 1. a reading from an online translation of an ancient text; and 2. a recorded lecture: listen, study it more than once, and master the material. 3. A unit quiz with questions on readings and the recorded lecture. Items in the module must be completed in order; i.e., quizzes will not be viewable until you have completed the readings and viewed the lecture.

You will get one attempt at each quiz, no time limit. Quiz questions are re-used on tests, but will be randomized. One-third of test questions are new, but should be among the easier questions if you have done the readings and listened to the lectures. Tests have a 60 min. time limit, and must be completed using Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. See the module item on these for links and instructions. The quizzes and tests can be completed as quickly or slowly as you like before the course ends on June 21. There is a recommended schedule under the 'Assignments' tab, which also display on the calendar function. These are not actual due dates, so you may work ahead or catch up later if you fall behind. There will probably be a Starfish report mid-semester, however, and if you are behind schedule, that will be noted.

If the video recording of your test reveals problems, your attempt may be voided and you may be required to retake the test or face taking a 0, which would result in failure. Among the things that Respondus flags: looking away from the screen repeatedly (assumption is you are referencing notes or another electronic device), poor lighting or extraneous noises that obscure the recording; other people in the room with you. None of these things are permissible.

For information about severe weather and university closings, see http://www.ecu.edu/alert/ (Links to an external site.). East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY). Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina student. Cheating (attempting to take a test for another student), plagiarism, and falsification, will be considered a violation of Academic Integrity: (http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/upload/academic-integrity-manual.pdf (Links to an external site.)). If you have an illness or a personal emergency, you must e-mail me in a timely fashion and explain your situation; I reserve the right to request documentation to evaluate whether your excuse was serious and unavoidable. I will submit grades June 22; so if you miss a test and do not contact me before the course ends, you risk failure or an incomplete.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intro</th>
<th>How to take this course, what myth is and how it is used; Greek and Roman names and attributes of the Olympians and other major gods.</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Unit 1 | Hesiod’s *Theogony*. Fictional nature of myth, creation myth, Zeus and his order of dikē (justice), total war, cunning, evil, and punishment in Tartaros. (116-210, 453819, 886-962) [http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html](http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html)  
| Unit 2 | Homeric Hymn to Demeter. (A)etiological Myth, Nomen / omen. [http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns1.html#2](http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns1.html#2) |
| Unit 3 | Achilles in the Trojan War. Homer, *Iliad* [use line # in brackets]  
| Unit 5 | The monsters of the *Odyssey* [use line # in brackets]  
| Unit 7 | Royal House of Thebes Family Tree [click show] ([https://goo.gl/EMjS0Z](https://goo.gl/EMjS0Z))  
| Test 1 |  |
| Unit 8 | Dionysos / Bacchus, irrational god of tragedy and civilization. Euripides, *Bacchae* 1-169 ([http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/euripides/bacchae.html](http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/euripides/bacchae.html))  
Mystery religions ([http://creatureandcreator.ca/?p=1538](http://creatureandcreator.ca/?p=1538)) |
| | Test 2 |