

CLAS 1500 Classical Mythology



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Course Description. Major myths of ancient Greece and Rome, their meanings and functions in ancient cultures and literatures. 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.

All readings are from open-source or out of copyright translations and provided in Canvas. No textbooks required for purchase. If you want a general reference, I have ordered an optional text: Robert Graves, *The Greek Myths*, Complete Edition (Penguin Classics 2012) 978-0-14-310671-5

Assignments and Grading:

Reading quizzes 1% each	15%	Scale: A 92.50-100, A- 89.50-92.49
Test 1 (units 1-7)	40%	B+ 86.50-89.49, B 82.50-86.49, B- 79.50-82.49
Test 2 (units 8-15)	45%	C+ 76.50-79.49, C 72.50-76.49, C- 69.50-72.49
		D+ 66.50-69.49, D 62.50-66.49, D- 59.50-62.49, F 0-59.49

All assignments and course materials are in Canvas. This is a self-paced course: for each unit there is 1. an introduction and reading from a translation of an original 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 get two attempts 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 (1 attempt) have a 90 min. time limit and when you open them in Lockdown Browser, its video recording feature, Respondus Monitor, automatically comes on. You will need access to a computer with a camera and microphone to take the tests. If you have a condition that makes you unable to concentrate on tests while being recorded, you may need to drop this course or consult DSS for options. There is a module with links and instructions on the use of Lockdown.

The quizzes and tests can be completed as quickly or slowly as you like before the course ends. For this reason, they do not have due dates indicated, only availability dates within which they must be taken. There is a recommended schedule under the 'Assignments' tab, which will show on your course calendar the dates by which unit quizzes and tests should be completed to stay on schedule. These are not actual due dates, so you may work ahead or catch up later if you fall behind. I will send periodic reminders as well.

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/>. East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138, 252-737-1016. Accommodation Information & Processes: <https://accessibility.ecu.edu/students/dss-guidelines>. Academic integrity is expected of every East Carolina student. Cheating, plagiarism (claiming the work of another as your own, including use of electronic devices or other means to look at answers during tests), falsification (taking a test for another), will be considered a violation of Academic Integrity and will result at a

minimum in a 0 for the assignment (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/upload/academic-integrity-manual.pdf>). 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 the day after the course ends; so if you miss a test and do not contact me, you risk failure or an incomplete.

Intro	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.
Unit 1	Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i> . Fictional nature of myth, creation myth, Zeus and his order of <i>dikē</i> (justice), total war, cunning, evil, and punishment in Tartaros. (116-210, 453-819, 886-962) Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i> , The Five Ages of Man. (106-201)
Unit 2	Homeric Hymn to Demeter. (A)etiological Myth, <i>Nomen / omen</i> .
Unit 3	Achilles in the Trojan War. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> Bk. 1.1-245, 350-430, 494-530; Bk. 18.50-145 skim Bk. 21.1-32, 210-390; Bk. 22.250-405
Unit 4	The Trojan Horse. Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 2.1-558; Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 4.270-289
Unit 5	The monsters of the <i>Odyssey</i> Bk. 5.95-281 Bk. 9.38-115, 215-500 Bk. 10.1-145, 210-400 Bk. 12.37-259
Unit 6	House of Atreus. Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i> , 40-247, 810-1611
Unit 7	Royal House of Thebes Family Tree Foundation of Thebes by Kadmos / Cadmus Europa, Cadmus and the Sowing of the Dragon's Teeth Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> 85-150, 220-462, 711-832, 1236-1285
	Test 1
Unit 8	Dionysos / Bacchus, irrational god of tragedy, fertility, and civilization. Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i> 1-169 Orpheus, Midas, Silenus. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 10.1-85; 11.1-145 Zagreus myth and Orphism Mystery religions
Unit 9	Perseus and Andromeda, Medusa, and Athena, mentor of heroes. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4.604-803. Imperial iconography in ancient Athens. Sculpture of the Parthenon (temple to Athena the Virgin). Pediments; statue of Athena <i>Parthenos</i>
Unit 10	Foundation myth of Rome. Romulus and Remus. Mythologized History. Livy, <i>Histories</i> 1.1-1.13. Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> 1.223-96, 8.26-151
Unit 11	Herakles/Hercules. Labors from Temple of Zeus at Olympia Hercules in pastoral pre-Rome. Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> 8.184-369 Apotheosis (becomes divine). Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 9.1-272

Unit 12	<p>Myths of Plato.</p> <p><i>Symposium</i>: Aristophanes' myth of the <i>androgyn</i>e (189d-193b pp.473-6) <i>Republic</i>: Ring of Gyges (II.359c-360b pp.1000); The cave (VII.514a-515e pp.1132-3); Myth of Er (X.614b-621d pp.1218-23).</p> <p><i>Timaeus</i>: Atlantis (24e-25d pp.1232-33).</p>
Unit 13	<p>Cretan Myth and Theseus. Pasiphae and the Bull</p> <p>Daedalus and Icarus. Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> 6.1-55</p> <p>Theseus and the Minotaur. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>. 8.152-235</p> <p>Theseus and Ariadne. Catullus 64.50-264</p> <p>Labors of Theseus.</p>
Unit 14	<p><i>Katabasis</i> (Hero's descent to the underworld).</p> <p>Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> Bk. 11.1-225, 485-505</p> <p>The 'Golden Bough' and Elysium. Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> 6.98-155, 264-94, 384-416, 535-751, 886-901</p>
Unit 15	<p>Apollo as sun god, the Roman emperor, and the return of the Golden Age.</p> <p>The Shield of Aeneas. Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> 8.671-731</p> <p>Apollo and Daphne. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1.438-567</p> <p>Fall of Phaethon. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 2.1-328</p> <p>Myth and Astrology</p>
	Test 2