

## CLA 10: Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern Mythology

MTW 4:10-5:50 PM Wellman 126

Purpose of Class: This course will introduce you to:

- a) The major (“Olympian”) gods, heroes, and their stories in ancient Greek, Roman, and other Mediterranean civilizations.
- b) The cultural and historical contexts in which these myths were created and appreciated.
- c) Visual characteristics of these gods and heroes in ancient and modern art.

Instructor:

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Office hours: MW 2-3PM

Required Texts: The following four texts are required and available at the bookstore:

Powell, B.B. 2002 *A Short Introduction to Classical Myth*. Pearson. ISBN 9780130258397 (“Powell” in Schedule).

Cashford, J. (trans.) 2003 *The Homeric Hymns*. Penguin. ISBN 9780140437829 (“Homeric Hymns”).

Morwood, J. (trans.) 2009 *Euripides: Medea and Other Plays*. Oxford. ISBN 9780199537969 (“Euripides”).

Mandelbaum, A. (trans.) 1971 *The Aeneid of Virgil*. Bantam. ISBN 9780553210415 (“Virgil”).

Please get them **before the second class meeting**. You will also need **5 standard scantron forms (UCD 2000) and a pencil** for the quizzes and final.

Class Format: This is primarily a lecture class. Most of the class time will be devoted to powerpoint lectures. Copies (electronic or paper) of the powerpoint will be provided only with properly documented excuse. Please take notes during the lectures in order to prepare for the quizzes and final.

There is a substantial amount of reading assigned for every class session. In the Schedule below, the text to be discussed on a particular day is indicated in **bold**. Please read as much as possible of that text before the class starts. If you do not have time you might postpone some of the reading till after class, but all of the assigned texts must be read before the quiz in which they will be covered (on quizzes more will be said below).

Your grades will be calculated on the basis of four quizzes and one final. **You need Scantron Form UCD 2000 and a pencil to take these**. Quizzes and tests must be taken on designated days. The only exception is when you have a properly documented excuse, in which case you may be permitted by the instructor to take them a few days before or after the scheduled time.

Almost every Monday, there will be a 15-20 minute quiz at the beginning of class. The quiz will cover what was taught in class prior to it, after the previous quiz (i.e. materials covered on preceding Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). All quizzes are multiple choice.

The final exam is on Friday 9/8 during the scheduled class time. This will also be multiple choice. It is cumulative and will probably contain many of the questions asked in previous quizzes (details TBA).

Smartsite: There is a smartsite for CLA 10. You are encouraged to use it to check your grades, access a copy of the syllabus, and send email to the instructor.

Grade Distribution:

Quizzes (x4)	60 %
Final Exam (cumulative)	40%

The standard grading scale, which will be used in this class, is as follows: A+=97-100%, A=93-96.99%, A-=90-92.99%, B+=87-89.99%, B=83-86.99%, B-=80-82.99%, C+=77-79.99%, C=73-76.99%, C-=70-72.99%, D+=67-69.99%, D=63-66.99%, D-=60-62.99%, F=0-59.99%.

Schedule:

Week 1 (8/2-4)

M – Introduction. Overview of major entities and ages in Greco-Roman mythology. **Powell p. 230.**

T – Cultural and historical backgrounds to classical myth. **Powell Ch. 4 &5.**

W – Creation of the universe. Divine and heroic myths in ancient Greece and the Near East. **Powell Ch. 6 & 8.**

Week 2 (8/9-11)

M – Quiz 1. Zeus, Hera, Athena, Poseidon. **Homeric Hymns XI, XII, XXII, XXIII, XXVIII.**

T – Adventures of the Argonauts. Euripides' *Medea*. **Euripides *Medea* lines 1 ("How I wish...")-764 ("...appeared a noble man") (pp. 1-21).**

W – *Medea* contd. Women in ancient Greece. **Powell Ch. 11; Euripides *Medea* lines 764 ("O Zeus and Justice...")-end (pp. 21-38).**

Week 3 (8/16-18)

M – Quiz 2. Demeter, Hades, Apollo, Artemis. **Powell pp. 97-105; Homeric Hymns II, III (up to. p. 37), IX, XXVII.**

T – Theseus and Athens. Euripides' *Hippolytus*. **Powell pp. 193-196; Euripides *Hippolytus* lines 1 ("I am called Cypris...")-668 ("...to tread them underfoot") (pp. 39-58).**

W – *Hippolytus* contd. Men in ancient Greece. **Euripides *Hippolytus* lines 669 ("How wretched...")-end (pp. 58-80).**

Week 4(8/23-25)

M – Quiz 3. Aphrodite, Hephaestus, Ares. **Homeric Hymns V, VI, VIII, XX.**

T – The Trojan War. Euripides' *Helen*. **Powell pp. 126-136; Euripides *Helen* lines 1 ("These are the streams...")-698 ("...I left them") (pp. 119-139 in Morwood).**

W – *Helen* contd. Aftermaths of the Trojan War. **Powell. Ch. 10; Euripides *Helen* lines 700 ("Menelaos, let me too share...")-end (pp. 139-168 in Morwood).**

Week 5 (8/30-9/1)

M – Quiz 4. Hermes, Dionysus, Hercules. **Powell pp. 105-107; Homeric Hymns IV, VII, XV.**

T – Aeneas in Troy, Carthage, and the Underworld. **Powell Ch. 13 & pp. 196-202. Virgil Books II, IV, VI.**

W – Aeneas in Italy and the founding of Rome. **Virgil Books VII, VIII, XI, XII.**

Week 6 (9/6-8)

M – Images of mythical Rome. Interpretations of myth. Final preview. **Powell Ch. 2, 3.**

T – No class.

W – Final exam.