

CLA 215-O, Mythology

Summer Online

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A Note on the Online Format

Given the exclusively online nature of the course, it will be critical that you familiarize yourself with Moodle and the various features of the course. I will post as many clearly outlined guides and assignments as I can, but it will be up to you, ultimately, to become familiar with the commonly used features of the Moodle interface. I can assist with this or technical support at Westminster can as well.

Course Description; Goals and Objectives:

The course is an introduction to the nature of myth and its functions in society. Our goals are:

1. To introduce principal myths from the worlds of Greece, Rome, northern Europe, southeast Asia, China, the Near East, Native American peoples from North, South, and Central America, and others as they appear especially in literature, but also other media, e.g., movies, videos, songs, painting, sculpture, etc.
2. To explore the functions and structural patterns of myths as they appear in various ancient and modern contexts and cultures
3. To develop critical skills to enable you to compare and to contrast myths from different peoples and cultures.

In essence, everyone should strive to become adept at reading, contextualizing, and interpreting traditional tales.

Relationship to the General Education Curriculum: Mythology (CLA 215) satisfies one of the literature courses included in the Artistic Expression and Critical Appreciation Context (Tier II-D). As stated in the course goals and objectives, mythology provides students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of myth and to develop the critical tools necessary for understanding the nature and function of myths in various cultures. Although myths and mythic patterns exist in a number of different contexts and media (e.g., movies, painting, videos, etc.), it is especially in literature where myths are most elaborately articulated. In this light the course

will develop the perspectives that will enable to analyze and discuss myths in accordance with key terminology and critical perspectives. By understanding a culture's myths a person is better prepared to understand the nature of a particular culture and the various ways in which cultures are similar to and different from one another. Through the study of myths students will explore the relationship between art and society in order to gain insight into the nature of various cultures and the ways in which traditional stories are used to address the most fundamental questions that pertain to the human condition. In turn, an understanding of the nature of myths and the variety of their expression should also promote a deeper appreciation of the arts and their role in human society.

Learning Goals for Classics Minors and Self-Design Major:

- 1) Students develop a functional knowledge of the ancient world (i.e., Greco-Roman world) and skills necessary to analyze and appreciate its cultural depth and diversity.
- 2) Students use their knowledge of the ancient world to understand the cultural contexts inherent in the modern world.
- 3) Students will develop a skill in using critical models (both ancient and modern) as a tool for gaining an understanding of the ancient world and its relationship to the modern world in which we live.

Teaching and Learning Philosophy

I believe that teaching and learning are inextricably intertwined with one another. The ultimate goal of this course is to have a dynamic exchange of ideas that is centered on a block of key ideas (i.e., content), is shaped through the pursuit of openly acknowledged goals, objectives, and outcomes, and takes advantage of a number of different strategies to explore the full depth of a topic. The purpose of the exchange is for the explicit growth and development of students and their learning. In the learning process teachers are facilitators and as such should strive to identify and establish conditions that foster and enable the serious inquiry, exchange, and mastery of key ideas. As part of this exchange, teachers need to provide regular and individualized feedback (e.g., written comments on exams and papers, results on assessment instruments, oral comments, etc.) to students on their progress on reaching the goals, objectives, and outcomes related to the course. As teachers we also need to be committed to creating an environment where students can grow academically and personally through the detailed study of the content area that is our passion.

Required Texts:

S. Leonard and M. McClure, *Myth and Knowing*, Boston 2004 (Leonard and McClure)

M.P.O. Morford and R. Lenardon, *Classical Mythology*, 9th ed. New York and Oxford. 2010 (=ML):

Extremely useful online resource for this text: <http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195397703/student/?view=usa>

N.B. Some required material will be posted on Moodle as well.

Course Schedule:

This course will run from June 3 to July 12. **Please consult Moodle for the Course Calendar**, and any updates will be announced via the news forum. The course calendar will be updated closer to the offering of the course, but there will essentially be 6 units that operate on a weekly schedule.

General weekly schedule

Mondays: Weekly content available

Thursdays/Midweek: Initial discussion thread responses due.

Sunday- Essays, Papers, and Take-Home Exams due.

Online Civility and Netiquette: Interaction with one another online has some interesting dynamics, and we will all want to maintain a safe and positive learning environment. We will all need to show respect for one another and to maintain the type of tolerance that is critically important for a meaningful academic exchange. Through an open and respectful discourse we should put ourselves in the best position to learn from one another. I look forward to working with everyone to develop and maintain a positive online community of learners.

Assessment and Grading*:

6 Discussion Forums	20 points each	120 points
1 Papers	30 points each	30 points
2 Essays	30 points each	60 points
1 Take-Home Exam	30 points each	30 points
1 Hybrid Exam/Paper	60 points each	60 points
		Total: 300 points

*This content may change as we familiarize ourselves with the online format. If Quizzes become a more appropriate means of testing, I will replace some of these point values with Quizzes. In the end, it will be an equal amount of points and work.

Make-up and late work: Papers will be accepted with a 3% deduction for each day that the assignment is late from the original due date. There are not extensions for responses to discussions (i.e., threads)—these must be completed as scheduled.

Description of Major Assignments:

Weekly Discussion Forums - Two or Three discussion prompts will be posted for each week. Students will be required respond to both the original prompt and to one another. A minimum of three critical posts will be required per discussion thread. Initial responses for all threads will be generally due on Thursday at midnight of each week. Further responses will be due on Sunday at midnight. See specific instructions as they are posted on Moodle.

Essays- Students will be required to compose 2 essays of 2-4 pages in length. The essays will represent the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the skills of narration, analysis, comparison, and synthesis.

Papers- Papers will be similar to essays but more intensively focused on analysis and research and will be 4-5 pages in length.

Take-Home Exams- These exams will focus primarily on the necessary information and terminologies necessary to recognize characters, places, and themes in the major myths we cover.

Additional Information

CLA 215-O: Mythology

Mythology (CLA 215) is an introduction to the nature of myth and its functions in society. Our goals are 1) to explore principal myths from the worlds of Greece, Rome, northern Europe, southeast Asia, China, the Near East, Native American peoples from North, South, and Central America, and others as they appear especially in literature, but also other media, e.g., movies, videos, songs, painting, sculpture, etc.; 2) to examine the functions and structural patterns of myths as they appear in various ancient and modern contexts and cultures; and 3) to develop critical skills to enable you to compare and to contrast myths from different peoples and cultures. In essence, everyone should strive to become adept at listening to, reading, telling, and interpreting traditional tales. Mythology (CLA 215) satisfies the Tier II requirement for a literature course in the Artistic Expression and Critical appreciation context. Through the study of myths students will explore the relationship between art and society to gain insight into the

nature of various cultures and the ways in which traditional stories are used to address the most fundamental questions that pertain to the human condition. An understanding of the nature of myths and the variety of their expression should also promote a deeper appreciation of the arts and their role in human society.

DRAFT	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	Notes: 1) This is subject to elaboration or change. If it does, I'll notify you by the News Forum. In the meantime, this gives you a general idea for the flow of the course. 2) All Discussion Forums close when the next Unit begins. 3) Use this document along with your syllabus and the Moodle course site.							
Week 1	Unit 1 Opens	Unit 1: Getting to know the material, Modern Myth Scavenger Hunt, jump start on readings. Instructions to be posted on Moodle.				forum 1 initial post		Essay 1 Assigned
Week 2	Unit 2 Opens	Unit 2: Creation/Flood Myths: We'll discuss some very old and universal world myths and talk about their basic elements and			forum 1 initial post	forum 2 initial post		Essay 1 DUE
Week 3	Unit 3 Opens Take Home Exam Assigned	Units 3/4 - Intro to the Gods		forum 1 initial post, 3pm			Exam 1 DUE	
Week 4	Unit 4 Opens Paper 1 Assigned						Paper 1 Due	
Week 5	Unit 5 Opens Essay 2 Assigned	Week 5/6: Epics and Heroes: Humans, Semi-Divinities, and Values. Week 5 will be another "survey" where we meet some of our less divine but equally grand heroes and heroines, and week 6 will be a deeper exploration into the larger issues surrounding all of Greek myth.				Paper/Exam 2 Assigned	Paper/Exam Hybrid DUE	
Week 6	Unit 6 Opens				Essay 2 Due			