**Classics 430/Comparative Literature 496**

**Greek and Roman Mythology**

**Spring 2022**

Professor Christopher Waldo MWF 3:30PM-4:20PM

cwaldo1@uw.edu ARC 147

Office Hours (Denny 262 C and simultaneously on Zoom):

T 1:30PM-2:30PM

F 2:30PM-3:30PM

or by appointment

For many people the thought of ancient Greek and Roman mythology calls to mind vengeful gods, heroic quests, and disastrous realizations of truth. These stories have remained in the public consciousness for millennia, continuing to be depicted in modern movies and television shows. We will interrogate this legacy by examining representations of classical mythology in both ancient and modern literature and art. We will begin the quarter by exploring a number of ancient texts, including Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Pindar’s victory odes, the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, and Vergil’s *Aeneid*, using them to explore contemporaneous conceptions of mythological figures and events. We will finish the quarter by surveying the uses to which modern authors and artists, like Margaret Atwood and Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, have put these ancient ideas. My aim is that over the course of the quarter we will arrive at a broad understanding of the lasting cultural significance of ancient Greek and Roman mythology.

**Required Texts**

ACM = Brunet, Smith, and Trzaskoma, *Anthology of Classical Myth*. Second Edition.

978-1624664977

Lattimore, *The Iliad of Homer*. 978-0226470498

TGP = Lefkowitz and Romm, *The Greek Plays*. 978-0812983098

Wilson, *The Odyssey*. 978-0393356250.

All other required readings will be made available on Canvas.

**Learning Objectives**

Students who complete this course will be able to

(1) identify the most significant figures of classical mythology, including gods, heroes, and monsters.

(2) examine the various literary sources from which our understanding of classical mythology is derived, differentiating between the distinct genres and time periods in which they were produced.

(3) appreciate that the classical tradition never ended, examining the ways in which modern authors continue to reimagine and rework mythological narratives and ideas.

**Course Requirements**

**First Midterm (Wed., Apr. 20) 30% of Total Grade**

This will be a multiple choice exam, and it will test you on the material covered through that point in the quarter.

**Second Midterm (Wed. May 18) 30% of Total Grade**

This will be a multiple choice exam, and it will test you on the material covered since the first midterm.

**Final Exam (Thurs. June 9 at 2:30PM) 40% of Total Grade**

This will be a multiple choice exam, and it will be cumulative.

**Academic Integrity**

University of Washington students are expected to practice high standards of academic and professional honesty and integrity as outlined here: http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf.

**Learning Support**

If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions.  Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS.  It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

“Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request Form (https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).”

**Class Schedule**

**Mon. Mar. 28**

Introduction

**Wed. Mar. 30**

What Is a Myth?

**Fri. Apr. 1**

Origin of the Cosmos

Reading Assignment:

Hesiod *Theogony* (ACM: 131-60)

**Mon. Apr. 4**

Demeter and the Seasons

Reading Assignment:

*Homeric Hymn to Demeter* (ACM: 170-78)

**Wed. Apr. 6**

Aphrodite

Reading Assignment:

*Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite* (ACM: 197-202)

**Fri. Apr. 8**

Klytemnestra

Reading Assignment:

Aeschylus *Agamemnon* (TGP: 47-99)

**Mon. Apr. 11**

Antigone

Reading Assignment:

Sophocles *Antigone* (TGP: 281-323)

**Wed. Apr. 13**

Medea

Reading Assignment:

Euripides *Medea* (TGP: 487-532)

**Fri. Apr. 15**

Penelope

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 1-2

**Mon. Apr. 18**

Telemachus

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 3-4

**Wed. Apr. 20**

FIRST MIDTERM

**Fri. Apr. 22**

NO CLASS

**Mon. Apr. 25**

Odysseus’ Travels

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 9-10

**Wed. Apr. 27**

Odysseus’ Travels Resumed

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 11-12

**Fri. Apr. 29**

Odysseus’ Homecoming

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 19-20

**Mon. May 2**

The Slaughter of the Suitors

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Odyssey* 21-23

**Wed. May 4**

Achilles’ Wrath

Reading Assignment:

Pindar *Isthmian Ode* 8

Pindar *Nemean Ode* 3

Homer *Iliad* 1, 9

**Fri. May 6**

Achilles’ Return to Battle

Reading Assignment:

Homer *Iliad* 18, 22, 24

**Mon. May 9**

Orestes

Reading Assignment:

Aeschylus *Libation Bearers* (TGP: 105-38)

**Wed. May 11**

Pollution and the Family

Reading Assignment:

Sophocles *Oedipus the King* (TGP: 225-74)

**Fri. May 13**

The Gods and the City

Reading Assignment:

Euripides *Bacchae* (TGP: 741-85)

**Mon. May 16**

The Invention of Law

Reading Assignment:

Aeschylus *Eumenides* (TGP: 143-77)

**Wed. May 18**

SECOND MIDTERM

**Fri. May 20**

Aeneid

Reading Assignment:

Vergil *Aeneid* 4, 6, 8

**Mon. May 23**

Cleopatra

Reading Assignment:

Selections from Plutarch *Life of Antony*

**Wed. May 25**

Margaret Atwood

Reading Assignment:

Selections from Margaret Atwood *The Penelopiad*

**Fri. May 27**

Greek Tragedy under Apartheid

Reading Assignment:

Selections from Athol Fugard, John Kani, Winston Ntshona *The Island*

**Mon. May 30**

MEMORIAL DAY

**Wed. June 1**

Luis Alfaro

Reading Assignment:

Selections from Luis Alfaro *Oedipus El Rey*

**Fri. June 3**

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha

Reading Assignment:

Selections from Theresa Hak Kyung Cha *Dictee*

FINAL EXAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 9 AT 2:30PM