

CLCV S115 01 (30031) /HUMSS213/LITRS164
Classical Mythologies
Summer 2018, Session A
M, W 1-4:15
Location TBA

Instructor: Christina Kraus (christina.kraus@yale.edu)
Class site on Canvas: <https://yale.instructure.com/courses/37125>

101 Phelps Hall
office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will read the stories of gods and legendary heroes that were told in ancient Greece and Rome. Our central focus will be on the various literary forms of these myths, such as epic and drama, and on their functions in ancient Greek and Roman culture. We will ask questions about where the myths came from, their fundamental types, and their many religious, political, and personal uses not simply as “ingredients” of ancient culture, but as important vehicles used by the Greeks and Romans to explain themselves to themselves. We will read some secondary material considering the use and theory of myth; we will also consider what new use is being made of these myths—and of the engine of myth in general—through the media of art, literature, and popular culture.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes	150 points (50 pts. each x 3: June 4, 11, 18)
Class Participation	50 points
Final exam	100 points (June 27)
	300 total possible points

Students should come to class having read, thought about, and taken notes on the day’s assigned readings. At the end of class each Monday class session (not to include the first day of class, Monday, May 28) there will be a 30-minute quiz (50 points each) examining students on their study of the previous week’s materials. Thus at the first class session of Week 2 you will be quizzed on all the materials (readings and lectures) of Week 1, then in Week 3 you will be quizzed on the materials of Week 2, and so on. A missed quiz will count as a zero.

Class participation will be taken into account (another 50 points), so missing any class during the session’s 5 weeks will have an immediate negative impact on the student’s grade.

The final exam, to be held during the second half of class on the last day (June 27), will be essay based and cover the material from the whole session. It is worth 100 points. I am aware that at least one student will have to miss that class, and will make arrangements to take the final exam before that Wednesday.

REQUIRED TEXTS. These are all available at the Yale Bookstore (Barnes & Noble); they are also available via Amazon.com in used copies. Some material, including all secondary readings, will be supplied on the Canvas class site.

You may use any translation you like but the lectures and assignments will be keyed to the editions/translations listed below:

Hesiod, *Theogony*, trans. Athanassakis. Alternative: online version (trans. Nagy, Banks) at:
<http://chs.harvard.edu/CHS/article/display/5289>

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Wilson. Alternatives: translations by Lattimore, Fitzgerald, Lombardo, Fagles all available on Kindle via amazon.com; A.S. Kline, online at <http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Odhome.htm>

Greek tragedies, volume 1, ed D. Grene and R. Lattimore (we will be reading Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*; Euripides, *Hippolytus*; Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*). These are also available online here, all translated by A.S. Kline:
<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Agamemnon.htm>
<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Oedipus.php>
<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Hippolytus.php>

Bacchae and other plays, trans. Morwood. The *Bacchae* is also available online here, trans. A.S. Kline: <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Bacchae.php>

The Trojan Women and other plays, trans. Morwood. We will read only the *Trojan Women* from this collection; it is also available online here, trans. A.S. Kline: <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/TrojanWomen.php>

Vergil, *Aeneid* (trans. Fitzgerald). We will read Books 1-6. Alternatives: translations by West or Fagles available via amazon.com; also available online here, translated by A.S. Kline: <http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (trans. Melville); we will read Books 11-15. Alternatives: translations by Raeburn, Humphries, Mandlebaum, or Lombardo available via amazon.com; also available online here, translated by A.S. Kline: <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Ovhome.php>