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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the stories of gods and legendary heroes that were told in ancient Greece and Rome. The central aims of the course will be to study these myths in their various literary forms, such as epic, tragedy, and ritual hymn, and to ask questions about where they came from, their fundamental types, and their many religious, political, and personal uses within ancient Greek and Roman culture. We will look at these myths not simply as ‘ingredients’ of ancient culture, but as important vehicles used by the Greeks and Romans to explain themselves to themselves. Further, we will ask what became of these myths, and what new use is being made of them through the media of television, novels, and cinema.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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300 total possible points

Students will be expected to come to class prepared, having read, thought about, and taken notes on the day’s assigned readings. Each student will be expected to bring ‘questions for the day’ to each class (to be explained on day one). At the end of class each Monday class session (not to include the first day of class) there will be a short 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. The dates for the quizzes are marked on the schedule below. 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 (100 points) will be comprehensive, and will take place in the second half of the class’s final session (Weds., July 31).
Grading Scale:

300-280 A
279-70 A-
269-260 B+
259-250 B
249-240 B-
239-230 C+
229-220 C
219-210 C-
209-200 D+
199-190 D
189-180 D-
Below 180 E

REQUIRED TEXTS: The books listed below 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: https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47452

- Hesiod *Works and Days, Theogony* (trans. S. Lombardo) Hackett, Indianapolis
- Homer *The Odyssey* (trans. R. Fitzgerald) Vintage / Farar Strauss Giroux
- Homer *The Iliad* (trans. R. Fagles) Penguin
- Ovid *Metamorphoses* (trans. Raeburn) Penguin
- Vergil *Aeneid* (trans. Fitzgerald) Vintage

*Note: all lectures and assignments will be keyed to the editions and translations listed above. Some English translations of these works are available online.

The following translations can be accessed online:


**Homer’s Odyssey**, online trans. by A.S. Kline:
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Odhome.php

**Aeschylus’ Oresteia Trilogy**, trans. George Theodoridis:
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Agamemnon.php
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Choephori.php
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Eumenides.php

**Euripides’ Bacchae**, trans. George Theodoridis:
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Bacchae.php

**Vergil, Aeneid**, trans. A.S. Kline:
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.php

**Ovid, Metamorphoses**, trans. A.S. Kline:
https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Ovhome.php

**Schedule of Lectures, Assignments, and Exams**

(*Assigned readings should be completed before each day’s lecture—this includes the summer session’s first class day—for day 1 please read Hesiod’s *Works and Days in advance of our first meeting*)

**M July 1**
Course Introduction: What is myth? Theogony, creation, *cosmos*  
(Hesiod, *Theogony all, Works and Days, all*)

**HESIOD’S THEOGONY AND WORKS AND DAYS SHOULD BE READ BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS**

**W July 3**
The Olympian *oikos*  
(Rayor, *Homeric Hymns all*)

**M July 8**
Homer’s *Iliad*  
(*Iliad* books 1-6, 9, 16, 20, 22, 24)  
(quiz #1)

**W July 10**
Homer’s *Odyssey* 1  
(*Odyssey* books 1, 3-6, 9-11)

**M July 15**
Homer’s *Odyssey* 2  
(*Odyssey* books 16-24)  
(quiz #2)
W July 17  Aeschylus’ *Oresteia*, Euripides *Bacchae*  
(Aeschylus *Oresteia* all: *Agamemnon*, *Libation Bearers*, *Eumenides*,  
Euripides *Bacchae*)

M July 22  Rome’s political myths (quiz #3)  
(Livy *History* pp. 1-81, trans. Luce.  
This reading will be available on Canvas site)

W July 24  Virgil’s *Aeneid* 1  
(*Aeneid* books 1-6)

M July 29  Virgil’s *Aeneid* 2  
(*Aeneid* books 7-8, 11-12)

W July 31  Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* (final exam)  
(*Metamorphoses* books 1-2, 6, 10, 15)