

CLASSICS 2200

Greek and Roman Mythology

2014-15

Instructor: Aara Suksi



Makron Vase. Boston 13.186. Potter: Hieron. Painter: Makron. Attic (= Athenian) red-figure, ca. 490-480 BCE. Detail, Side A: showing, from left to right, Paris, Eros, Helen, Aphrodite.

Course Description: Myths are culturally significant narratives that change as they are repeated across geographical space and through time. This course offers a survey of the major Greek and Roman myths known from art and texts ranging from Homer's *Iliad* through Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. We will consider the myths in relation to their cultural contexts at different historical moments in the Greek and Roman worlds. We will see how they reflect and reinforce, and perhaps also problematize, the values, fears and desires of the Greeks and Romans. We will seek to understand the compelling psychological and cultural power of mythic narratives.

Your Instructor:

Prof. Aara Suksi
e-mail: asuksi@uwo.ca
Dept. of Classical Studies (Lawson
3205)
My office: Lawson 3225
Phone 661 2111 ex 81555

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics, and served as Chair of the Department from 2008-2013.

I came to Western in 2001, having completed my PhD in Classics at the University of Toronto. I have also worked at the University of Alberta (1998-2001).

In addition to Greek and Roman Mythology, I have taught courses in Greek language and literature and in women and gender in Greece and Rome.

My research is in the field of Greek literature, especially Greek Drama and the Ancient Greek novel.



Professor Aara Suksi

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Check the announcements on the course OWL site for TAs' contact information and office hours.

Time and place: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:30 **Location TBA**

Objectives: You will become familiar with the major myth cycles from ancient Greece and Rome. You will know what types of evidence we have available for the myths, and the limitations of that evidence. You will gain an understanding of how the myths functioned in their cultural contexts. You will learn to compare different mythical narratives and to identify common story-patterns. You will gain some awareness of how the myths of ancient Greece and Rome have survived in different forms throughout the history of Western culture to the present day.

Learning Outcomes: Successful students will have developed skills in closely reading and interpreting literary texts and art images. They will be able to recognize the ways that narratives reflect their cultural contexts. They will be able to identify and to compare story

patterns that arise in different contexts. They will be able to identify the major characters of Greek and Roman myths as they appear in art. They will have some ability to apply this knowledge to the interpretation of later cultural artifacts from the Western tradition that refer to Greek and Roman myths.

Texts:

Stephen L. Harris and Gloria Platzner. *Classical Mythology: Images and Insights*. 6th edition. McGraw-Hill 2011

This text has been ordered at the UWO Bookstore.

There may be some additional assigned reading that will be made available through the Owl site for this course.

Evaluation:

30% term test	Thursday, Nov. 6	multiple choice
30% term test	Thursday, Feb. 5	multiple choice
40% Final Exam	3 Hours	<u>cumulative</u> ; multiple choice

You can best prepare for the above by completing the scheduled readings **before** class and by attending lectures regularly. Lecture material will supplement readings, not repeat them. If you find you are having trouble with any of the course material, it is best to see your TA during office hours sooner in the course rather than later, so that you can get help before you feel overwhelmed. If you are not comfortable with multiple choice evaluation, then please reconsider whether you want to take this course.

Important: Absence from a test or exam will result in a grade of zero. If extreme and unforeseeable circumstances prevent you from writing any of the above, you **must let us know as soon as possible and also contact your Faculty Academic Counselor to request accommodation (see information box below)**.

Do not ask to do an extra assignment to improve your grade.

Website: This course will have an OWL site. We will use the site to post announcements, PowerPoint slides from lectures, any readings not included in the textbook, grades, and links of interest. To communicate with us please use our email addresses, rather than the mail function in OWL, and please use your own uwo email address in any correspondence. This will prevent your message from getting blocked by spam filters.

Classroom Courtesy:

It is important that all students have access to the lecture material with the least distraction possible. For this reason I ask you to be aware of the following expectations: Please refrain from carrying on conversations during the lecture. If you have a question about the lecture, please do raise your hand and we will be happy to address it. Do your best to arrive on time; the lecture will begin promptly at 10:30, and I will never go beyond 11:20, so please remain until the lecture is finished. If you absolutely must arrive late or

leave early, try to sit where it will cause the least distraction and inconvenience to your fellow students. Cell-phones should be turned off during lecture. Please be mindful that content on your laptop screen can be distracting to students sitting around you, and keep your activity on your computer to note-taking related to the lecture.

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed. There are no prerequisites for this course, but it is not open to first-year students. The antirequisite is the old Classics 137.

PLAGIARISM and other Academic Offences: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). There are no written assignments for this course, but any type of academic offence committed during tests or the exam will be taken very seriously. No aids of any kind are allowed in the tests and exam, and no communication between students will be permitted during the tests and exam. Copying answers from a neighbour's test or exam is a serious academic offence for which there are grave consequences.

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> [under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

WESTERN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Tentative Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reading Assignment Page numbers are from Harris & Platzner, 6th ed.
Sept. 4 (Thurs only)	Course Introduction	Read through the syllabus very carefully and make a note of test dates, course policies, evaluation, etc.
Sept. 9	Introduction to Historical Background; Definitions; the Evidence	Harris and Platzner, Ch. 1: Introduction to Greek Myth (pages 3-36)
Sept. 16	Creation of the World	Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> (pages 88-105)
Sept. 23	Creation of Humans	Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i> (pages 128-133)
Sept. 30	A Later Perspective	<i>Prometheus Bound</i> ; read the play at this link: http://www.falcontheater.org/page5/files/Prometheus%20Bound.pdf
Oct. 7	The Olympian Family: Zeus, Hera, Hestia, Poseidon, Ares, Aphrodite, Demeter, Persephone, Hades	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> excerpt: The Loves of Ares and Aphrodite (pages 205-208) <i>Homeric Hymn to Demeter</i> (pages 156-167)
Oct. 14	Apollo and Artemis	<i>Hymn to Apollo</i> ; read at this link: http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns1.html#3
Oct. 21	Athena, Hephaestus, Hermes	<i>Hymn to Hermes</i> (pages 209-223)
Oct. 28 (Tues only)	Dionysus	<i>Hymn to Dionysus</i> ; read at this link: http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns3.html#7
Nov. 4	The Underworld; Term Test November 6	Chapter 9: Land of No Return (pages 259-87)
Nov. 11	Early Heroes: Perseus Heracles	Chapter 10: Heroes of Myth (pages 275-294)
Nov. 19	Jason, Theseus and Phaethon	(pages 295-307)
Nov. 25	Heroines	Chapter 11: Heroines of Myth (pages 308-330)
Dec. 2 (Tues only)	Causes of the Trojan War	Read ahead
Jan. 6	The Trojan War (Achilles)	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> (pages 352-423)
Jan. 13	The Trojan War (con't.)	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
Jan. 20	Returns: Odysseus	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> (pages 445-501)
Jan. 27	Odysseus and Penelope	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>
Feb. 3	Returns: Agamemnon Term Test February 5	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i> (pages 601-632)

Feb. 10	Myth and Ritual	Aeschylus, <i>Libation-Bearers</i> , <i>Eumenides</i> (pages 633-655)
Feb. 17	Reading Week	
Feb. 24	Oedipus	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (pages 679-727)
Mar. 3	Tragic Marriage	Euripides, <i>Medea</i> (pages 779-817)
Mar. 10	Amazons and Bacchantes	Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i> (pages 528-581)
Mar. 17	Roman Myth	Chapter 18: The Roman Vision (pages 821-839)
Mar. 24	Aeneas	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> (pages 857-923)
Mar. 31	Ovid	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> (pages 932-963)
Apr. 7 (Tues only)	Summary	



Etruscan bronze she-wolf from Rome, 6th-5th century BCE. The infants were added during the Renaissance