Classical Mythology

Syllabus

Purpose of the Course

Through readings in classical and modern poetry, we will explore how versions of myth cohere and contradict, how different societies adapt myth to express their own meaning. While providing a general overview of Classical mythology, the course will focus on several mythological figures and their stories, including (but not limited to) Demeter and Persephone, Iphigenia and Agamemnon, Orpheus, Romulus. We will discuss myths about these figures with the following questions in mind. What is the point of revisionist myth-making? where does myth support traditional values and how can it operate as a vehicle of change? Students will have an opportunity to both analyze myths comparatively and to create their own modern re-tellings of a myth

Required Textbooks


Course Website:  http://www.indiana.edu/~myth98/2005/
In addition to the syllabus and assignments, there are important materials (poems and images) for the course that are available ONLY on this website. You can get to the images and poems by clicking on links in the online syllabus. Images are also available through the image archive. To access these materials you will need the username and password provided on the print version of this syllabus (handed out in class).

On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will be responsible for knowing both the poems and images on the website, just like the readings in the textbooks for the course. For the artwork, you should be able to recognize the figures and episodes depicted in these works of art and the era to which they belong (Greek, Roman, Modern), but not for knowing the names of the artists or their exact dates. You do, however, need to know the significance of the art and be able to discuss interpretations of it. Interpreting the artistic representations of myth will require some knowledge of the historical context and the approximate date of the piece, for example, you should that a sculpture is Roman (rather than Greek or Renaissance) and how that historical context informs our interpretation of it.

**Grading**

- Weekly Written Assignments (8 @ 5%) 40%
- Microthemes (3 @ 10%) 30%
- Exams (2 @ 10%) 20%
- Section Grade (Attendance, Participation) 10%

There will be no extra credit awarded in this course.

**Absence Policy**

Missed exams may be made up only in case of extreme emergency, as determined by the professor. (Car trouble, oversleeping, losing your notes, and forgetfulness, for instance, are not extreme emergencies.) If you are ill on an exam day and wish to make up the exam, you must bring a note from your doctor stating that you were too ill to take the exam. A note that simply documents a visit to the doctor or the campus health service is NOT sufficient (http://www.indiana.edu/~college/ado/policies.shtml).

If you plan to miss an exam or assignment deadline because you will be an official representative of the university at a university-sponsored event, or because of a religious obligation on the due date or exam day, please follow university policy (http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/holidays.html): notify the professor or your AI in writing by the end of the second week of the course, and be prepared to take the exam or turn in the assignment at an earlier date than scheduled. Exams and written work must be completed on or before the due date in these cases. Failure to take the final exam may result in a failing grade for the course (see College Policy, http://www.indiana.edu/~college/ado/policies.shtml).

Missed lectures, sections and written assignments may not be made up in any circumstances, so please do not ask about it. There will be 11 section meetings; you may be absent from one with no penalty. If you miss two, your highest possible section grade is 9/10, 90%, A-. Miss three, and it is 80%, B-, etc.

**Cooperative Learning and Academic Honesty**

You are welcome and encouraged to study and prepare for class with other students enrolled in this section of Classical Mythology. Written work and exams should be your own work, or in the case of a group assignment, the work of the group members only. Unacknowledged quotation is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment. More than one instance of plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the whole course. Cheating on an exam will result in a grade of F for the whole course. All cheating and plagiarism
will be reported to the Dean of Students, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (http://dsa.indiana.edu/Code/).

Reading Schedule and Due Dates

Class Schedule

Lecture: MW 9:05-9:55, Section 15179 MW, FA 102
Section: F 10:10-11:00, Section 15180, BH 335
F 11:15-12:05, Section 15181, BH 335
F 1:25-2:15, Section 15182, BH 235
F 2:30-3:20, Section 15183, BH 335

Important Dates

Microtheme #1 Friday 15 September
Midterm Exam Wednesday 4 October, at our regular time and lecture hall (FA 102)
Microtheme #2 Friday 20 October
Microtheme #3 Friday 17 November (or Monday 20 November, IF you were in section 11/17)
Final Exam Wednesday 3 December, 8-10 am at our regular lecture hall (FA 102)

Instructions

1. Please read the pages assigned before lecture on the day indicated. Note: the reading assignment are subject to change; any changes will be announced in lecture and/or section.
2. Please review the images on the website before lecture on the day indicated and afterwards.
3. Numbers in parentheses refer to pages, unless specified otherwise (see #3).
4. For Ovid, Fasti assignments are given by book and line numbers in the following format: “Book.Lines,” so for example, 2.1-10 means “lines 1 to 10 of Book 2”; page numbers follow in parentheses. Be sure to read the notes at the back that go with each book of the Fasti
5. Page numbers for Homeric Hymns refer to Athanassakis, A. N. The Homeric Hymns.
Be sure to read the notes at the back that go with each hymn!

Names to know

The “Names to know” are listed for the week or for the class. Many of them will be found in the readings, a few will be explained in lecture. You will be expected to know these figures and concepts for the exams and you should also be able to use them in your microthemes and informal writing.

Week 1
Names to know
Socrates, Boreas and Oreithyia,
myth, heroic legend, history, traditional story,
Archaic Period, Classical Period, Hellenistic Period, Roman or Imperial Period,
rationalist interpretation, skepticism, allegorical interpretation,
supernaturalism, personification, reification, bi-natural beings, composite beings, nature spirits, transformation,
physical world of Greek mythology (Tartaros, Okeanos, Olympus, death real),

. . . including the Olympian gods

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
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<td>Zeus</td>
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<td>Hermes</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dionysos</td>
<td>Bacchus / Liber</td>
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W 30 August
Hansen, Preface (xiii) and Chapter 1 “Introduction” (1-50), and entries for
Genealogy (174-77)
Olympians (250-51)
Website Images: “Maps”

F 1 September
Assignment #1: Intellectual Autobiography

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Week 2

M 4 September
Homer’s Hymn to Demeter (1-14)
Hansen, entries for
Absent Deity (95-96)
Aetiology (97-98)
Ambrosia (101)
Demeter (Ceres) (144-47)
Hades (Dis, Pluto) (179-82)
Persephone (Proserpina) (259-61)
Sexual Myths and Legends (286-90)
Zeus (Jupiter) (330-35)
Website Images: “Demeter/Ceres” and “Persephone/Proserpina”
Names to know: Triptolemus, Helios, Keleus, Metaneira, Eleusis

W 6 September
Demeter/Persephone Poems from Website:
  Callimachus epigrams
  D. H. Lawrence, “Purple Anemones”
  Stevie Smith, “Persephone”
  Louise Glück, “A Myth of Innocence” and “A Myth of Devotion”
Demeter/Persephone selections from Orpheus and Company
  Eaven Boland, “The Pomegranate” (146-47)
  Fay George, “Kore” (152)
  Janet Holmes, “Chez Persephone” (154-55)
  Jeremy Hooker, “She Hides Her Golden Hair” (156-57)
Selections from Rita Dove, Mother Love:
  “Forward: An Intact World”
  “Perspehone, Falling” (9)
  “The Search” (10)
  “The Narcissus Flower” (12)
  “Mother Love” (17)
  “Persephone in Hell” (21-33)
  “The Bistro Styx” (40-42)

F 8 September
Assignment # 2: Collection of Poetic Images

Week 3

M 11 September
Ovid, Metamorphoses Book 5 (115-132)
Selections from Rita Dove, Mother Love, “Her Island” (65-77)
Hansen, entries for
  Eponymy (163-63)
  Folk Etymology (173-74)
  Nymphs (239-44)
Website Images: “Temples in Sicily”
Names to Know: Sicily, Henna, Cyane, Arethusa, Alpheus, the Muses

W 13 September
Homeric Hymns to Apollo (14-27, 57) and Hymn to the Muses and Apollo (57-58)
Mark Irwin, “Robert Mapplethorpe’s Photograph of Apollo (1988)” in Orpheus and Company (271)
Hansen, entries for
  Apollon (Apollo) (109-113)
  Combat Myth (137-39)
  Eileithyia (Lucina) (160)
  Oracles (251-53)
  Seers (281-83)
Website Images: “Apollon/Apollo”
Names to Know: Apollon (Apollo), Leto, Eileithyia, Phoibos, Delos, Crete, Delphi, Telphousa, Parnassos, “she-dragon” (Python), Hera, Hephaistos, Thetis, Typhon

F 15 September
Assignment # 3: Microtheme: Perspectives on Demeter/Persephone

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**Week 4**

M 18 September
Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (from the *Oresteia*)
*Oresteia* selections from *Orpheus and Company*
   - Carol Tufts, “Agamemnon Sacrifices Iphigenia” (74-75)
Hansen, Chapter 2 “What Happens in Myth” (80-84)
and entries for
   - Biographical Pattern (129-30)
   - Honor (202-04)
   - Hubris (204-207)
   - Trojan War (314-15)
Website Images: “Artemis” and “*Oresteia*”
Names to Know: Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, Orestes, Electra, Iphigenia, Cassandra, Helen, Menelaus, Paris, Troy, Mycenae, Atreus, Thyestes, Trojan War, Athens, aegis

W 20 September
Aeschylus, *Eumenides* (from the *Oresteia*)
*Oresteia* selections from *Orpheus and Company*
   - Pamela White Hadas, “Cassandra” (297)
   - Katharyn Howd Machan, “Cassandra” (298)
   - Jean Monahan, “Cassandra” (299-300)
Athena Poems from *Orpheus and Company*
   - Barbara Helfgott Hyett, “Birth of Athena Blues” (247)
   - Amy Clampitt, “Athena” (244-45)
Website Images: “Athena” and “*Oresteia*”

F 22 September
Assignment # 4: Oppositions in the *Oresteia*

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**Week 5**

M 25 September
*Homeric Hymn to Hermes* (28-42)
Ovid, *Fasti* 5. 663-92 (Festival to Mercury) (148-49)
Hermes poems in *Orpheus and Company*
   - Ellen Bryant Voigt, “First Song” (278)
   - Dale Kushner, “Hermes” (272)
Hansen, entries for
   Hermes (Mercury) (196-99)
   Iris (211-12)
   Trickster (309-314)
   Wondrous Objects (325-30)
Website Images: “Hermes/Mercury”
Names to know: Maia, Capena Gate, Onechestos, caduceus

W 27 September
Hansen, Chapter 2 “What Happens in Classical Mythology” (61-94)
Hansen, entries for
   Anthropogony (102-105)
   Cosmogony (139-41)
   Cyclopes (143-44)
   Flood Myth and Legend (171)
   Giants (177-79)
   Kronos (Saturn) (216-17)
   Myth of the Ages (236-38)
   Personified Abstractions (264-66)
   Succession Myth (293-94)
   Titans (302)
Names to know: Chaos, Gaia, Ouranos, Kronos, Rhea, Saturn, Tartaros, Eros, Night, Titans, Cyclopes,
                 Olympos, Metis, Themis, Mnemosyne, Leto, Hera, Maia, Semele, Prometheus, Pandora,
                 Deukalion and Pyrrha, Amphitrite, Tantalos

F 29 September
Assignment #5: Study Guide for the Midterm Exam

Week 6

M 2 October
Review

W 4 October
Midterm Exam in the regular lecture hall, FA 102. Please bring a # 2 pencil. No notes or books.

F 6 October
No Section. No Assignment.

Week 7

M 9 October
Homeric Hymn to Hera (53)
Ovid, Metamorphoses Book 1 (1-16)
        Book 2 (40-45, “Jove in Arcady” and 54-56 Europa)
Ovid, *Fasti* 1.587-616 (Jupiter, Augustus) (52-53)
   2.639-84 (Terminus) (74-75)
   5.1-158 (Maestas, Kronos/Saturn, Maiores, Maia, Amalthaea) (131-35)
Hansen, entries for
   Catasterism (131-32)
   Hera (Juno) (186-89)
   Kourotes (Curetes) (216)
   Transformation (302-305)
   Zeus (Jupiter) (330-35)
Website Images: “Zeus/Jupiter” and “Hera/Juno”
Names to know: Callisto, Europa, Amalthea, Kourotes, Augustus, Julius Caesar

W 11 October
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 1 (16-27)
Apollo/Daphne Poems from Website
   Propertius, *Poem* 4.6
   Horace, *Ode* 1.31
   Louise Glück, “Mythic Fragment”
   William Wadsworth, “The Snake in the Garden Contemplates Daphne”
   Sandra Gilbert, “Daphne”
Apollo/Daphne Poems in *Orpheus and Company*
   Eavan Boland, “Daphne with Her Thighs in Bark” (187-88)
   Sandy Solomon, “Laurel” (190)
   Sandy Solomon, “Daphne” (191)
   A. E. Stallings, “Daphne” (192)
Hansen entry for Nymphs (239-44)
Website Images: “Daphne”
Names to know: Daphne, Antony, Actium, Temple of Apollo on the Palatine

F 13 October
Assignment # 7: Collection of Poetic Images

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**Week 8**

**M 16 October** *Homeric Hymns to Dionysius* (50-51 and 58)
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book 3 (57-80)
Ovid, *Fasti* 1.317-458 (Agonalia, Priapus) (45-49)
   3.403-414 (Ampelos) (91-92)
   3.459-516 (Ariadne’s Crown) (93-95)
   3.713-808 (Festival, Liber) (100-102)
Hansen entries for
   Cadmos (214-15)
   Dionysos (Bacchus, Liber) (147-51)
   Maenads (223-25)
   Mountains (235-36)
   Oedipus (247-49)
Satyrs (279-81)
Sex-Changers (283-85)
Website Images: “Dionysos/Dionysius”
Names to know: Dionysius, Semele, Pentheus, Cadmus, Tiresias, Ampelos, Priapus

W 18 October
Narcissus Poems on the Website
   Ben Bollitt, "Xerox"
   Fred Chappell, “Narcissus and Echo”
Narcissus Chapter in Orpheus and Company
   Victor Howes, “Narcissus for the Defense” (225)
   Donald Justice, “Narcissus at Home” (226-28)
   Heather McHugh, “The Nymph to Narcissus” (229)
   Gary Miranda, “Narcissus” (230)
   Deborah Pease, “Loss of Soul” (231)
Website Images: “Narcissus” and “Actaeon”
Names to know: Echo, Narcissus

F 20 October
Assignment # 8: Microtheme:  Analysis of a Commercial Website

Week 9
M 23 October
Homeric Hymn to Poseidon (57)
Ovid, Metamorphoses Book 4 (106, Medusa)
   Book 5 (107-115),
   Book 12 (291, Caenis)
Medusa Poems on the Website
   May Sarton, "The Muse as Medusa."
   Amy Clampitt, “Medusa”
   Sylvia Plath, "Medusa"
Medusa Poems in Orpheus and Company
   Jean Monahan, “Medusa Cuts Her Hair” (256-57)
   Melanie Richards, “Medusa Saved” (258)
   Joyce Thomas, “Maybe Medusa” (259)
Hansen entries for
   Hero (199-201)
   Perseus (261-63)
   Poseidon (266-69)
   Waters (315-23)
Website Images: “Poseidon/Neptune” and “Medusa and Perseus”
Names to know: Medusa, Perseus, Andromeda, Caenis, Caenus

W 25 October
Ovid, Metamorphoses, Book 8 (pp. 181-208)
Ariadne Poems from Website
  Propertius, Poem 1.3 (Ariadne)
  E. W. Mandel, “Minotaur Poems”

Ariadne Poems in Orpheus and Company
  Stephen Dobyns’ poems in the chapter on Daedalus/Icarus/Minos (197-207)
  Deborah DeNicola, “Awaiting Dionysius” (295)
  Ioanna-Veronika Warwick, “Ariadne Thanks Theseus for Abandoning Her” (216-17)
  Ellen Roberts Young, “Maze and Monster” (218-220)
  Nicholas Christopoher, “Ariadne auf Naxos” (286)

Icarus Poems from Website
  W. C. Williams, “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”
  W. H. Auden, “Musée des Beaux Arts”
  A. Sexton, “To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph”

Hansen entries for
  Labyrinth (218)
  Theseus (299-301)

Website Images: “Theseus and Ariadne” and “Daedalus and Icarus”
Names to know: Nisus, Scylla, Minos, Pasiphae, Minotaur, Ariadne, Theseus, Daedalus, Icarus, Perdix

F 27 October
Assignment #9: Greek versus Roman

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Week 10

M 30 October
Ovid, Metamorphoses, Book 10 (234-58) and Book 11 (259-60)

Orpheus/Eurydice poems from the Website
  H. D., “Eurydice”
  Margaret Atwood, “Eurydice,” “Orpheus (1),” “Orpheus (2)”,
  Debra Greger, “Eurydice in Asylum”

Orpheus/ Eurydice poems from Orpheus and Company
  Helen Trubek Glen, “Eurydice Comes Back After Twenty Years” (12)
  Mark Johnston, “Father Orpheus” (21)
  John Pijewski, “Eurydice Summer” (30)

Hansen entries for
  Orpheus (253-54)
  Romantic Narratives (275-79)

Website Images: “Orpheus and Eurydice”
Names to know: Orpheus, Eurydice, Cyparissus, Ganymede, Hyacinth

W 1 November
Review Ovid, Metamorphoses, 1 (23-25, Pan and Syrinx)

Orpheus/ Eurydice poems from Orpheus and Company
  John Ashbery, “Syringa” (3-5)
  Steve Kowit, “Eurydice” (23-24)
  Mark Strand, “Orpheus Alone” (48-49)
Orpheus/Eurydice poems from the Website
   Seamus Heaney, “The Underground”
   Denise Levertov, “A Tree Telling of Orpheus”
   R. M. Rilke, selections from “Sonnets to Orpheus”
Hansen, entry for Pan (254-57)
Website Images: “Pan”

**F 3 November**
Assignment #10: Personalizing Myth

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**Week 11**

**M 6 November**
Introduction to Nagle’s translation of the *Fasti* (1-35)
Ovid, *Fasti* 1.1-294 (Janus) (37-44)
   1.587-616 (Ides: Octavian becomes Augustus) (52-53)
   1.709-724 (Altar of Peace) (56)
Website Images: “Janus” and “Calendar”
Names to know: Sulmo, Tiberius, Germanicus, *pontifex maximus*, *do ut des*, *ludi*, Numa, Julian Calendar, Kalends, Ides, Nones

**W 8 November**
Ovid, *Fasti* 1.461-586 (Evander; Hercules and Cacus, Great Altar) (49-52)
   5.379-414 (Achilles, Chiron, Hercules) (141-42)
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 9 (209-218)
Hansen, entries for
   Centaurs and Hippocentaurs (132-36)
   Herakles (Hercules) (189-96)
Website Images: “Herakles/Hercules”
Names to know: Evander, Herakles (Hercules), Cacus, *Ara Maxima*, Achilles, Chiron, Centaur, Nessus, Deinira, Achelous, Alemena, Galanthis

**F 10 November**
Assignment #11: Museum Visit (due Monday 13 November in lecture). No Section

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**Week 12**

**M 13 November**
*Homeric Hymn to Pan* (55-56)
Ovid, *Fasti*
   2.119-148 (Nones: Augustus, “Father of his Country,” like Romulus) (60-61)
   2.267-474 (Lupercalia, Pan/Faunus) (64-70)
   2.475-532 (Quirinus; oven) (70-71)
   3.1-166 (Mars, Silvia, Romulus and Remus) (81-85)
Website Images: “Romulus”
Names to know: Pan, Faunus, Syrinx, Lupercalia, Romulus, Remus, Hercules, Omphale, Silvia, Tiber, Albula, Sabine Women, Lucina, Quirinus, Julius Proculus, “Feast of Fools,” Fornacalia

W 15 November
Homeric Hymn to Ares (52)
Ovid, Fasti
- 3.167-398 (Consualia, Juno Lucina) (85-91)
- 4.721-862 (Parilia, Rome’s birthday, Celer) (124-28)
- 5.419-92 (Lemuria, Remus’ ghost) (142-44)
- 5.545-598 (Mars Avenger) (145-47)
Hansen, entry for Ares (Mars) 113-115
Website Images: “Ares/Mars”
Names to know: Silvia, Numitor, Amulius, Larentia, Faustulus, Sabine Women, Consualia, Juno Lucina, Numa, Parilia, Pales, Celer, Lemuria/Remuria, Mars the Avenger, Forum of Augustus, Philippi, Brutus, Cassius

F 17 November
Assignment # 12: Microtheme: New Perspectives on a Mythological Figure

Week 13

Monday 20 November
Homeric Hymn to Hephaistos (56)
Ovid, Metamorphoses Book 4 (86-87)
Ovid, Fasti 6.569-636 (167-69)
Hansen, entries for
- Hephaistos (Vulcan) (183-86)
- Wondrous Objects (325-30)
Website Images: “Hephaistos/Vulcan”
Names to know: Fortune, Servius, Ocresia

W 22 November and F 24 November Thanksgiving Break. No Class

Week 14

M 27 November
Homeric Hymns to Aphrodite (42-50 and 50)
Ovid, Fasti
- 4.1-164 (Venus, Greek Heroes to Italy) (105-109)
- 4.863-900 (Vinalia, prostitutes worship Venus Erycina) (128-29)
Ovid, Metamorphoses Book 10 (241-58)
Venus poems in Orpheus and Company
- Diann Blakely, “Greek Love #2. A Statue of Aphrodite” (238)
- Rachel Wetzsteon, “Venus Observed” (260)
Hansen, entries for
- Ainias (Aeneas) (98-100)
Aphrodite (Venus) (105-109)
Luminaries (219-220, Eos and Tithonos)
Website Images: “Aphrodite/Venus” and “Aeneas”
Review Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 10 (251-58)
Names to know: Anchises, Aeneas, Ascanius, Pygamalion, Cinyras and Myrrha, Adonis, Atalanta and Hippomenes, Eos and Tithonus, Julius, Judgment of Paris, Vinalia, Mt. Eryx

**W 29 November**
Ovid, *Fasti*
5.1-110 (Maia, Maiestas) (131-34)
5.159-378 (Flora) (135-41)
Hansen entries for
Divine Guilds (151-60)
Website Images: “Flora”
Names to know: Flora, Publicius,

**F 1 December**
Assignment #14: Why is Roman mythology so hard to revise

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**Week 15**

**M 4 December**
*Homeric Hymns to Hestia* (57, 59-60)
Ovid, *Fasti* 6.249-468 (Vesta) (159-65)
Hansen, entry for Hestia (Vesta) 202
Website Images: “Hestia/Vesta”
Names to know: Vacuna, Priapus, Silenus, Jupiter the Baker, Vertumnus, Palladium, Metellus

**W 6 December**
Review

**F 8 December**
No Section

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**FINAL EXAM**
Wednesday 13 December, 8-10 am.
The exam will be held in our regular lecture hall, FA 102.
Please bring a #2 pencil. No notes or books.