

1. Course Information:

College: College of Liberal Arts
Department: Department of Classics
Course Title: Introduction to Classical Mythology
Course Designation and Number: CLS 260
GE Area: VI: College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses All Sections Selected Sections

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web only
 Other

Course may include some web-based work on art relating to Classical Mythology, also audio works on some related opera and other musical types.

Includes Lab: Yes No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives:

GE Program Objectives:

- (all) . . . sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- . . . learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community.
- . . . increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Six Objectives:

- (a) communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists.
- (b) Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

“Introduction to Classical Mythology” incorporates basic cultural knowledge common to all educated persons, and most especially those with a broad liberal arts education. Students will understand and appreciate allusions in art and literature, and also engage in thinking and discussion of many cultural and social values and reasons for individual human behavior.

Area Six learning outcomes addressed:

Students will be better able to communicate with individuals who are in the student’s major, in allied fields, and non-specialists, and to understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student’s major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

WAC Objectives:

- to improve students' writing proficiency - their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling.

Students will have three distinct writing assignments with which to practice their writing proficiency, with feedback on all of them.

- to encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.

Each of the three assignments requires a different kind of analysis and writing, and students will learn from instructor feedback how to make each better than the previous one. Also, the student is required to make choices, and defend them, thus enhancing the learning process and imposing self-discipline.

- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines, essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

The course requires a lot of reading, of complex material which must be carefully organized in the mind - and on the page when writing. Reading carefully, required here, is probably the first necessity for good writing. The subject matter is varied, and potentially germane to many disciplines.

3. Suggested Course Materials

TEXT: Donald Richardson, Stories of the Greeks and Romans: Introduction to Classical Mythology. 2nd Ed., rev. (N.Y. Caratzas, 2000).

Map and art transparencies and slides, plus audio tapes, will also be used in class.

Out of class work on computer web sites should also be anticipated.

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Short quizzes after week 3 and 7, Final Exam (partly essay). Out of class essays (about 500 words) on Gods (week 3) and Heroes (week 9); major essay/research (1000-1500 words) on topic of choice, with instructor approval (week 10).

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

- Wk 1: The nature of myth and legend. Primordial gods; the birth of the Olympian gods.
(Read: intro, ch. 1,2, pp 1-36)
- Wk 2: Morality tales; early heroes. social position, rules of conduct, life after death. (ch. 3-5, pp 37-112)
- Wk 3: Early heroes: Perseus and Bellerophon; Medusa and Pegasus. ch. 6, pp.113-138
QUIZ #1 (Essay on **Gods due**)
- Wk 4: The Quest for the Golden Fleece: Jason and the Argonauts; Circe, Medea. Orpheus and Eurydice.
(ch 7-10, pp 139-186)
- Wk 5: Athenian myths. The hero Theseus; Theseus and the Minotaur. Cretan connections.
(ch. 11-12, pp 197-246)
- Wk 6: Theban myths. The House of Laius, the Oedipus saga. Adaptations for Greek tragedy.
(ch 13, pp 247-274)
- Wk 7: Heracles (Hercules). The Hero as type, Heracles as demi-god; conflation of stories.(ch 14-16, pp. 275-327)
QUIZ #2
- Wk 8: The Trojan War. The Homeric question.
(ch 17-20, pp 329-397)

Wk 9: The Odyssey and other "Returns". Adventures of Odysseus (Ulysses) and typical "wanderings" and "trickster" myths. Roman adaptation: The story of Aeneas; myth in the service of history. (ch 21-25, pp 399-485) (*Essay on **Heroes** due*)

Wk 10: Later stories; 'fairy tales.' (ch 26, pp 489-510)
Review (*Major Essay paper due*)

Final Exam

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy