Classical Mythology

Classical Studies 240
Chem 106
T/TH, 10:30-11:45
Instructor: Mark Masterson

Overview, Goals, Expectations, and Grading

We will start by reading selected myths in ancient Greek literature. Transformations of these myths in Roman literature, Shakespeare, and O’Neill will follow. The course will conclude with reading and discussion of stimulating essays by Marina Warner.

The goals for the class include the development of the following:

1) Mastery of the particulars of the myths studied;
2) Ability to discuss and evaluate the differences between the various treatments (i.e. Greek, Roman, Elizabethan-English, and Twentieth-Century American approaches) of the myths surveyed;
3) Some knowledge of the ways myths and mythology have been intellectually approached in the past;
4) Original thought about these myths and their treatments.

Three examinations will test all of the preceding and contents of readings and class activities.

My expectations include the following:

a) Attendance of all class meetings;
b) On-time completion of class readings;
c) Willing participation (that furthers the goals of the class [see above]) in all class activities.

If you should happen to miss class, please do not ask me about what you missed while I am teaching. Either find out what you need to know from a classmate or come see me during office hours (or before or after class).
Grading:

Participation  20%
Hour Exam One  25%
Hour Exam Two  25%
Final Exam  30%

Participation, which will be a rather subjective measure (and rest assured that you will receive the benefit of the doubt), will be based on your earnest willingness to participate in all class activities. Ways to lock in all twenty points include attending all classes, listening when others are talking, having something serious to say when called upon, emailing me as requested in November, etc.

Each exam will be a mixture of objective/short answer questions with an essay or two.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Nancy Thompson in the Dean of Students Office (KJ 104; ext. 4022) who coordinates services for students with disabilities.

Texts

BOOKS TO PURCHASE:

*Aeschylus I* (University of Chicago)
*Euripides V* (University of Chicago)
*Four Tragedies and Octavia*, Lucius Annaeus Seneca (Viking Press)
*Hesiod’s Theogony* (Focus Classical Library)
*Six Myths of Our Time*, Marina Warner (Vintage Books)
*Sophocles I* (University of Chicago)
*Three Plays*, Eugene Gladstone O’Neill (Vintage Books)
*Titus Andronicus*, Shakespeare (The Pelican Shakespeare, Penguin USA)

ELECTRONIC RESERVE:

Selections from *Genesis*
Portions of Books One and Six of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*
Books One and Two of Statius’s *Thebaid*
Office Hours and Contact Information

Mark Masterson has Office Hours in Couper Hall 106 3:30-4:30 Mondays, 2:30-3:30 Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 Fridays and by arrangement. He can be reached at mmasters@hamilton.edu or at 849-4053. Since he checks his email obsessively, email is a most efficient way to contact him. Please do not hesitate to contact him with your questions about anything whatsoever.

Important Dates

10/1     Hour Exam One
11/26    Hour Exam Two
12/19    Final Examination: 9AM-12PM

Schedule of Activities

Note: Reading assignments are for the date on which they are listed. You arrive for class on 9/5 having read Hesiod, *Theogony*: pp. 27-68, to take an example.

**WEEK ONE**

9/3    Introduction to the class
9/5    Hesiod, *Theogony*: pp. 27-68

**WEEK TWO**

9/12   Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*: pp. 35-80 [to the speech of Clytaemestra]

**WEEK THREE**

9/17   Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* and *The Libation Bearers*: pp. 80-126
9/19   Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers* and *The Eumenides*: pp. 127-171

**WEEK FOUR**

9/24   Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*: pp. 11-47 (to the chorus)
9/26   Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*: pp. 47-76
WEEK FIVE
10/1  HOUR EXAM ONE
10/3  Sophocles, Antigone: pp. 161-184 (to the chorus)

WEEK SIX
10/8  Sophocles, Antigone: pp. 184-212
10/10 Euripides, Bacchae: pp. 155-87

WEEK SEVEN
10/15 Euripides, Bacchae: pp. 188-end
10/17 Seneca, Thyestes: Acts One and Two (pp. 43-62)

WEEK EIGHT
10/22 Fall Break: No Class
10/24 Seneca Thyestes Acts Three through Five (pp. 63-93)

WEEK NINE
10/29 Seneca, Oedipus: Acts One and Two (pp. 205-28)
10/31 Seneca, Oedipus: Acts Three through Five (pp. 229-51)

WEEK TEN
11/5 Statius, Thebaid: Book One
11/7 Statius, Thebaid, Book Two
WEEK ELEVEN

11/12  Ovid, Metamorphoses: Book Six pp. 142-51; Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus: pp. 1-57 (to III.2)

11/14  Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus: 57-106

WEEK TWELVE

11/19  No assignment, merely come to class [Titus]

11/21  No assignment, merely come to class [Titus]

All members of the class are required to email me with an intelligent reaction to the movie by 12:00 A.M., 11/23. This reaction must be at least 200 words in length. Longer than 200 words is OK. Your reaction should relate the movie to the rest of the course. It should be more than a movie review (though it may have something of that about it). Check spelling and grammar. This email will be part of your participation grade. Be certain that the email is your own work. If I email you back, be certain to respond to me within 48 hours.

WEEK THIRTEEN

11/26  HOUR EXAM TWO

11/28  Thanksgiving: No Class

WEEK FOURTEEN

12/3  O’Neill, Mourning Becomes Electra: pp. 257-344 (Homecoming and Acts One and Two of The Hunted)

12/5  O’Neill, Mourning Becomes Electra: pp. 344-424 (remainder of The Hunted, entirety of The Haunted)

WEEK FIFTEEN

12/10  Warner, Six Myths of Our Time: pp. 1-23

12/12  wrap up day; no assignment

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12/19  FINAL EXAMINATION, 9AM-12PM

Changes will be made to this syllabus as circumstances warrant.