

Course goals

The primary aim of this course is twofold: 1) to familiarize the student with the characters and events of ancient Greek and Roman myths, and 2) to move beyond mere narrative to consider the possible interpretations and functions of these myths. Myths were told and retold in many contexts: in song, in dramatic performance, in written literature, and in arts such as sculpture and pottery. Myths reveal and explore the central concerns of ancient society, and as such they can give us a greater understanding of a society that was very different from ours but which has often been influential in the evolution of the West. Because of the similarities and differences between our culture and those of the ancient Mediterranean, the study of these cultures can give us further insights into the working of our own society. Later Western art and literature, for instance, have frequently reworked ancient myths in way that can illuminate both ancient and contemporary culture.

Learning Objectives:

- Introduces students to Greco-Roman mythology and its uses in society from classical antiquity to today's world;
- Takes a critical instead of a descriptive approach to the study of classical mythology, teaching students the various ways in which myths can be read and encouraging them to develop their own methodology of reading myths;
- Studies two similar but disparate cultures, Greece and Rome, which, while important to the development of Western civilization, also pose significant differences from our culture today; and
- Examines traditions in literature, philosophy, art, and religion from Greco-Roman antiquity through today via myth.

Attendance, Absences & Accommodations

Attendance is required. Worksheets and other in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances. Tests can be made up in cases of an emergency or illness, but I will insist on documentation.

If you require accommodations on assignments for a disability, university-sanctioned event, or religious holiday, you must let me know in advance. See the links below for the accommodations the university provides and that this class follows:

Religious accommodations: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-04.html>

University-sanctioned activities: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-02.html>

Disability Accommodations: Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>. Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Classroom Behavior

During class, please refrain from using tablets, computers, cellphones, PDAs, music players, etc. etc., etc. Use of these items—however unobtrusive you may think you're being—is distracting and annoying to those around you and to me. If you absolutely need to take a call or respond to a text in an emergency, please leave the classroom to do so and return when your business is finished. Recording devices may be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (see me and see the statement that follows about copyright—under academic honesty).

Regarding other issues, I run a fairly casual classroom, but I expect you to treat me and the other students in the class and in your groups online with attention and respect. If you have questions, please ask me instead of whispering to your neighbor. If you have a question, chances are others in the class do as well! Any disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior will be dealt with according to University Policy, which can be found at:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html>

Title IX Statement

[Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#) protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the employment, education programs or activities it operates. ASU is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on sex and provides a number of resources and services to assist students, faculty and staff in addressing issues involving sex discrimination, including sexual violence. Victims of sexual violence, sexual harassment, stalking and relationship violence are encouraged to [seek support](#) and [report](#) the incident. ASU has appointed a Title IX Coordinator to oversee ASU response to Title IX complaints, develop training and education programs/materials for faculty, staff and students, as well as monitor trends and effectiveness of Title IX education efforts.

Academic Honesty

Scholastic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a failing grade (E) for that assignment which may not be dropped. If that E results in your failing the course as well, I will apply for a grade of XE from the Dean's Office; an XE grade can never be erased from your transcript, bars you from extra-curricular activities, and may have other negative consequences, such as affecting your admission into graduate programs. Scholastic dishonesty includes submitting any work that is not your own and that has received assistance from outside sources, including print sources, the internet, and your fellow students. If you need clarity on what comprises scholastic dishonesty, see me or consult the following website: <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/defined>. Note too that all written assignments are run through several databases – ASU's own SafeAssign database and independent plagiarism-checker software – upon submission.

All the contents of lectures, including written materials distributed to the class, are under copyright protection. Written permission must be secured from the official instructor(s) of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. For more information on this, see: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-06.html>

Caveat Lector

It is very important that students remember that the purpose of this course is to study another culture, primarily through its language. The ancient Romans are one of the foundation societies of Western culture, and many aspects of their language and society may seem familiar to us today; however, many aspects of Latin language and Roman culture are also alien and might even be considered offensive in today's society. If you find some of the course content offensive, please feel free to discuss it with me, my colleagues in Classics, or the director of SILC. All of us may be contacted in person or by email.

Contact information and office hours

Dr. Almira F Poudrier

Office: DH 302 E (be sure to bring your SUN card to get access to the offices area of my building!)

Office hours: MWF 11:10am-12:10pm in person, also by appointment on Zoom.

almira.poudrier@asu.edu

By far the best way to reach me is via email. If you need to set up a meeting outside of my posted office hours, please contact me via email. Please also note that I may hold online office hours in addition to my in-person office hours. Details about that will be available on Canvas. I don't have a phone in my office. In the case of an emergency, you may call or text me on my cell phone at 602-738-5784. You may find you have better luck getting me on email though!

Required Texts

The books below are required and have been ordered for the course, and are available at the ASU Bookstore. These are probably available more cheaply online (used at Amazon, for instance), or as ebook editions.

- Stephen Trzaskoma, *Anthology of Classical Myth*, ISBN 9781624664977
- Moses Hadas, *Greek Drama*, ISBN 9780553212211
 - The ASU library will provide chapter scans for you of this book!
 - https://search.lib.asu.edu/permalink/01ASU_INST/1o1u1i6/alma991016799259703841

We will also be using:

- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, translated by Rolfe Humphries, 2018, available at the ASU library as an e-book
 - https://search.lib.asu.edu/permalink/01ASU_INST/1o1u1i6/alma991048685169703841
- Other readings will be assigned in Canvas and available or as a pdf in canvas. If you would like to purchase any or all of these texts, ask me and I can recommend decent versions.

Extracurricular Opportunities & Extra Credit

Various extra credit opportunities will be afforded throughout the semester. All extra credit applies to the attendance and participation portion of the grade. Extra credit cannot be used to affect test or final paper grades.

Attendance Opportunities:

AIA Lectures in February, March, April. Details will be provided on Canvas as they become available

Weekly participation on the class Facebook page will result in an additional 1% added to your final grade.

Volunteer Opportunities:

SILC Language Fair, February 27, 7am-2pm. See Canvas for more details

ASU Open Door, February 24, 12noon-7pm. See Canvas for more details

Grades

I grade on a straight percent scale, not on a curve. All grades are final and non-negotiable (although I am willing to correct any mistakes and/or explain my criteria if you should have questions). Grades will be available throughout the term on Canvas. Note, however, that that grades listed on Canvas are a mirror of my hardcopy official gradebook. Any discrepancies between them will be determined by my official gradebook.

Grades will be assigned using the plus/minus system implemented in Fall 2004, as follows:

A+: 100 % or better	B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%
A: 93-99%	B: 83-86%	C: 70-76%
A-: 90-92%	B-: 80-82%	D: 60-69%
		E: below 60%

Grade distribution is as follows:

Tests	60%
30% weekly online quizzes—automatically drop lowest	
30% two ID exams in class (15% each)	
Class Participation & Attendance	30%
15% Weekly Journal and Peer Review—automatically drop lowest	
15% Selfies/Daily Attendance—automatically drop lowest three	
Final Journal	10%

Getting an A+ please note that this requires a little extra work and/or extra credit in my class. There will be Extra Credit opportunities in extra-curricular formats (on zoom—see above) and also bonus points on most quizzes and weekly journals, so this is very do-able!

Assessment

Weekly online quizzes will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer from the readings AND lectures. You will need to be present at lectures and/or get the notes from a classmate, to do well on these quizzes! They will be timed but can also be repeated once for credit; Canvas will take your higher score automatically. There will be extra credit on each quiz.

ID exams will be paragraph-length identifications designed to demonstrate the student's familiarity with the subject matter, but also to address the student's ability to think critically about these topics by reference to the importance of the topic in the context of themes and theories of the class and by making comparisons with other class materials. Students will be provided a list of possible term IDs before the test, and will have a choice of terms at class. These exams will be in class.

Daily Attendance will be assessed through responses to daily selfie slides. More information will be provided in canvas, but essentially you will be using your phone to take a selfie during class to prove you were in class.

Weekly journal entries: Every week, students will be required to post a journal entry in response to a question posed by

the instructor. These questions will involve the modern uses of classical mythology—i.e., the ways that classical myth influences modern story-telling. This may involve video games, tv shows, advertisements, modern stories, and other media that make use of ancient Greek and Roman characters, story lines, themes, and ideas. You will get to choose the modern media that you use for each question. Your journal entries are worth 10% of your overall grade. The other 5% is gained in this category by thoughtful responses to other journal entries. These can be questions, constructive criticism, comparisons, etc. Your goal in this part of the journal is to help others get a better grade on the final journal project; they will also assist you in this.

Final journal: Students will choose their 3 best journal entries, make edits according to comments from the peer reviews, the TAs, and the professor, and write a final journal that ties those three entries together and addresses the question of what those three entries show about modern uses of ancient myth. Since there are three entries, most papers will be about 3 pages. (this is basically a 5-paragraph essay—more to come on this in Canvas)

Making stuff up: Attendance cannot be made up under any circumstances. For the rest, see under accommodations.

Pass/No Credit: Students taking the course for Pass/Fail must pass the tests and fulfill the participation/attendance requirements. Students who audit must complete the participation/attendance requirement.

Honors Contracts: These are available for this course. Honors contracts involve a lengthy in-class presentation (35-40 minutes, about half the class), and need to be complementary with the course schedule. Please see me individually if interested.

Tentative Schedule for Spring 2018: Topics may change! Always check Canvas for details. Reading assignments will be detailed in Canvas on a weekly basis, this is an outline of topics and the schedule of exams.

Week 1 January 10-16	Introduction, Creation & Destruction myths
Week 2 January 17-23 No Class Monday (MLK Day)	The Rise of Zeus (and Hera)
Week 3 January 24-30	Gods: Poseidon & Athena
Week 4 January 31-February 6	Gods: Artemis & Apollo
Week 5 February 7-13	Gods: Aphrodite & Hermes
Week 6 February 14-20	Gods: Dionysus & Demeter
Week 7 February 21-27	Gods: Hades, Orpheus & the Afterlife
Week 8 February 28-March 6 ID Exam #1: Week 8 (date TBA)	Catch-up week
March 7-13 Spring Break No class	
Week 9 March 14-20	Sagas & Heroes: Thebes

Week 10
March 21-27

Sagas & Heroes: Mycenae

Week 11
March 28-April 3

Sagas & Heroes: Troy

Week 12
April 4-10

Sagas & Heroes: Heracles

Week 13
April 11-17

Sagas & Heroes: Theseus, Perseus, and a few others

Week 14
April 18-24

Sagas & Heroines: Medea (and Jason)

Week 15
April 25-May 1

Catch Up Week and ID Exam 2

ID Exam 2: Week 15 (date TBA)

Final Journal Due Wednesday May 4 by midnight