

Greco-Roman Myth & Religion
21:510:257:H7
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Zoom
July 12 –August 18

Professor: Aaron Beck-Schachter
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Office: Online
Office Hours: TBD
Course Website: Accessible via Canvas

Description: This class will emphasize their social, literary and religious contexts of the myths of Classical Antiquity. We will investigate how the myths were received, elaborated and interpreted by ancient poets, thinkers and audiences. Our aim will be to understand myths not just as free-floating fanciful stories—though the sheer narrative pleasure of mythological tales will not be ignored—but as complex, challenging accounts of human existence that were deeply and meaningfully woven into the very texture of ancient social life.

Learning objectives:

- **Reading a variety of texts**, including primary sources, for meaning and informed, critical analysis.
- **Literacy in the "facts" of Classical Myth:** Students will acquire and integrate knowledge of the Olympian and other major deities, lesser deities and heroes, heroes of legend or saga, and of the major "cycle" narratives such as the Theban, Argonautic, Argive, Thesean, Trojan, and the story of Aeneas.
- **Knowledge and Critical Application of Theories of Myth:** Students will encounter and learn to apply several of the following critical approaches to or modes of interpreting myth, which are common across the humanities: To apply principles and concepts critically across disciplines and produce and support original thoughts and arguments.
- **Knowledge of the Historical Contexts of Classical Myth:** Students will develop some historical context for the figures and narratives of Classical myth, such as the culture of the Mycenaean age and the question of Homer.

How to access this course: All course material can be found in the Modules section of the course's Canvas site. If you have worries or questions about Online instruction **email me!** For example:

- 1) Do you anticipate having trouble accessing a required technology resource (i.e. Streaming video)?
- 2) Do you have any accessibility requests for me regarding online teaching? For example: materials available in a different format, transcriptions, specific approaches to discussion boards, a preference of video discussion vs. discussion boards, etc.?
- 3) Do you have any additional questions or concerns about moving to online classes that you would like to share with me? **Email me!**
- 4) ---Link to RU-N "Technology LaunchPad": <https://runit.rutgers.edu/technology-launch-pad/>

- 5) ---Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

Required Texts:

1. All required course materials are provided on Canvas in the Modules section.

Grading:

1. Quizzes (located in units 1-5): 300 points.
2. Participation (comments and discussion) 200 points.
3. Two Essays: (located in units 3, 5): 500 points.
4. Total: 1000 points

Weekly Quizzes: Each week there will be a short answer identification quiz covering the material from the weekly video lectures to be completed on Canvas. **The Quizzes are due Sundays at 11:59 PM**

Participation/Comments/Discussion: Each week you will be required to post one (1) comment or question on each assigned Video Lecture (aim for 4-5 sentences). Each Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. I will lead a discussion with the Zoom tool on Canvas, where we will discuss the comments and readings for that week's topics. Comments and participation in the Zoom sessions is a significant portion of your grade; asking questions counts as participation and helps others in the class who may want to know the same thing—so don't be shy!

Essays: the essays are major portions of your grade. There is an example assignment at the bottom of the syllabus.

Academic Integrity: Here are the current integrity guidelines:

<https://policies.rutgers.edu/10213-currentpdf>. You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge on all examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment). (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (Date)".

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the

CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

Schedule:

Unit 1: What is Greek Myth? The Titans, Prometheus, Zeus and Demeter

7/13

Video Lecture # 1

Reading: none

Advanced reading: none

7/15

Video Lecture # 2

Reading: Selections Week 2, Powell 2004 – *Hesiod*

Advanced reading: Vernant 1990 – *Prometheus in Hesiod*.

Video Lecture # 3

Reading: Primary Selections Week 3, Powell 2004 – *Demeter*

Advanced reading: Calame 2007 – *Greek Myth and Greek Religion*

Quiz 1 Due, 11:59 PM, 7/18/21.

Unit 2: Apollo, Artemis, Dionysus, Aphrodite, Io, Danaus, Cadmus.

7/20

Video Lecture # 4

Reading: Primary Selections Week 4, Graf 2009 – *Apollo*

Advanced reading: Lonsdale 1994 – *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

7/22

Video Lecture # 5

Reading: Primary Selections Week 5; Morford and Lenardon 2013 – *Dionysus*.

Advanced Reading: Henrichs 1984 – *The Modern View of Dionysus*

Video Lecture # 6

Reading: Primary Selections Week 6

Advanced reading: Rutherford 2011 – *Mythology of the Black Land*

Quiz 2 Due, 11:59, 7/25/21.

Unit 3: Jason, Oedipus, Iliad

7/27

Video Lecture # 7

Reading: Primary Selections Week 7, Stafford 2012 – *Herakles*

Advanced Reading: Shapiro 1983 – *The Death and Apotheosis of Herakles*

7/29

Video Lecture # 8

Reading: Primary Selections Week 8; Morford and Lenardon – Argonauts and Medea

Advanced reading: Hunter 1993 – *Modes of Heroism*.

Video Lecture # 9

Reading: Primary Selections Week 16

Advanced reading: Dodds 1966 – *On Misunderstanding Oedipus Rex*.

Quiz 3 Due, 11:59 PM, 8/1/21.

Essay 1 Due, 11:59 PM 8/1/21

Unit 4: Iliad, Odyssey.

8/3

Video Lecture # 10

Reading: Homer *Iliad* books 1, 6, 9; Morford and Lenardon 2013 – Troy

Advanced reading: Clarke 2004 – *Manhood in Homer*

Video Lecture # 11

Reading: Homer *Iliad* books 9, 22, 24; Powell – *Iliad*.

Advanced reading: Hertel 2011 – *The Myth of History*

8/5

Video Lecture # 12

Reading: Homer *Odyssey* books 5, 9; Powell 2005 – *Odyssey*.

Advanced reading: The *Odyssey* 1-11; Murnaghan 1995 – *The Plan of Athena*

Video Lecture # 13

Reading: Homer *Odyssey* books 18, 24; Powell 2002 – *Myth and Folktale: The Legend of Odysseus*.

Advanced reading: The *Odyssey* 12-24; Powell 1997 – *Homer and Writing*.

Quiz 4 Due, 11:59 PM

Unit 5: Iphigeneia, Helen.

8/10

Video Lecture # 14

Reading: Morford and Lenardon 2003 – *Orestes*; Powell 2002 – *Orestes*.

Advanced reading: Aeschylus *Agamemnon*.

8/12

Video Lecture # 15

Reading: Primary Selections Week 14

Advanced reading: Lewis 2011 – *Women in Myth*

Quiz 5 Due, 11:59 PM 11/22/20

Unit 6: Conclusion

8/17

Conclusion

Essay 2 Due, 11:59 PM 8/17/21

Paper 1 Assignment

The assignment is to write a 3-5 page essay summarizing **one** of our advanced readings.

The readings you have to choose from are:

Vernant 1990 – *Prometheus in Hesiod*.

Calame 2007 – *Greek Myth and Greek Religion*

Lonsdale 1994 – *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

Henrichs 1984 – *The Modern View of Dionysus*

Rutherford 2011 – *Mythology of the Black Land*

Shapiro 1983 – *The Death and Apotheosis of Herakles*

Hunter 1993 – *Modes of Heroism*.

All of these readings are on Canvas in the Modules section of each week

In writing your essay you may want to consider the following approach:

1. First, think about the primary reading of your chosen week. Choose one major myths or episodes in Classical mythology (i.e. a major Homeric hymn or set of hymns, a substantial account or summary such as Hesiod or Apollodorus, or major episodes in one of the Homeric epics).

2. Second, summarize briefly your understanding of the advanced article (if you are unsure, re-watch the Video lecture)
3. Third, using the key terms of the week, show how the figures and events described in the myth integrate with the argument of the advanced reading. Think about how you believe the episodes demonstrate or contain important insight or wisdom for an ancient and/or modern audience.

Good luck!

Features of Your Paper:

- Three to five (3-5) typed pages, one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-pt font.
- Your name, course, my name, assignment, and date should be in upper left hand corner
- Page numbers should be in the bottom right corner only
- Original title in plain 12-pt font and centered

120 pts.