REL 3325 Religions of Classical Mythology

Janet McDaniel  
jmcdanie@fiu.edu  
Office Hours:  T/TH 12:30 – 1:45 by appointment.  
DM 233  305-348-6728

Course Description

This course will examine the Religions of Classical Mythology from Greece and Rome. We will use several methodological approaches including Externalist (myth as a product of the environment), Internalist (myth as a product of the mind) and Feminist (myth as a reflection of gender construction). We will investigate how these myths help us understand Greek and subsequent Roman societies.

This course is Web Assisted on Blackboard. Notes, Rubrics, Calendar, Web Links

The last week of the semester will be utilized for the Final Exam.

Required Text

ISBN 9780073535678

Course Objectives

- The student will be able to apply methodological interpretations of myth.  
- The student will be able to recognize myths as historical reflections of social constructions.  
- The student will be able to understand ancient concepts of gender and their applications in myth.  
- The student will be able to articulate the theory of the Divine Woman/Great Goddess and her subordination and transformation into the patriarchal system.

On-Line Study Guide

- http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073535672/student_view0/  
- Consists of notes, quizzes, flashcards, glossary, accompanying each chapter.

Citations and Format:  Formatting, Bibliographies and citations must be in MLA or Chicago Style format. See www.easybib.com or http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html for assistance.  
You are also encouraged to utilize the university’s Center for Excellence in Writing, GL 120  http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/
Course Requirements

There will be 4 exams consisting of multiple-choice and short answer questions each worth 15% of the final grade. Exams consist of information from the text as well as in-class lectures. **If you plagiarize (see below) on the written portion of the exams, you will receive a 0!**

There will be 4 short response papers, each worth 10% of the final grade. You may choose from select questions at the end of each chapter for topics. Papers due with each unit. Specific Paper Due Dates and Rubric Posted on Blackboard. Two of the papers may be done as Powerpoints rather than traditional papers. Directions for ppts posted on Blackboard.

- Papers must be double spaced and have the question labeled by chapter/number and fully typed at the top of the page.
- Papers must have the following: 1) clearly recognizable thesis statement in introductory paragraph. 2) all paragraphs must have main idea and supporting details 3) conclusion paragraph
- All papers must be turned in through turnitin.com on Blackboard – under Assignments
- 800 words min. 1 point deduction for every 100 words short.
- Late papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date with .5 pt loss per day. Papers over 1 week late will not be accepted.

**Use of Electronics:** Laptops are permitted only for the purpose of taking notes. Use of all other electronic devices are prohibited during class (this means, phones are off, no texting). You will be asked to leave the classroom upon a second violation. The use of audio recording is permitted only by permission and is for your personal use only. Absolutely no video recording during class. No recordings may be uploaded on the internet.

**Additional Responsibilities:**

- Attendance is mandatory. Attendance counts as arriving on time and staying for the remainder of the class. Material will be covered in lectures that are not included in the readings. **Missing more than 5 class periods will lower your grade by 5 points.**
- Classroom conduct and respectful discourse. Students will behave in a courteous manner during class. Talking in class is disruptive and shows a lack of respect for the lecturer and your fellow students. Persistent, argumentative interrupting of the lecturer will result in removal from class until a meeting is set with myself, and if necessary the chair of the REL department. Your grade can be lowered by 5 points if you are continually disruptive.
- Email: check before each class. Email correspondence must be sent through Blackboard email.
- Understanding your course progress which includes checking that grades are recorded accurately in the grade-book. E.g. it is your responsibility to confirm points have been added and recorded accurately especially with Turnitin. **It is**
Your responsibility to make sure your grades are recorded correctly. Notification of any such discrepancies must be emailed to me by the last day of class, with the exception of the last unit. No grade change will occur if you wait until after grades are submitted to notify me of discrepancies.

- Any questions or disagreements with grades must be sent via Blackboard email and discussed before the end of the semester.

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism is 1) copying any written material (including our text, my notes, another person’s paper) without using proper citation – this includes material from the internet; 2) Incorporating another person’s ideas without giving proper credit/citation (literary theft). Plagiarism will result in a 0 and be subject to the policies set forth by the university.

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook. FIU Code of Academic Integrity [http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html](http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html).

**Grading Scale:** Grades are based on accumulated points, 100 in total –

- 94 – 100 A 74 – 76.9 C
- 90 – 93.9 A- 70 – 73.9 C-
- 87 – 89.9 B+ 67 – 69.9 D+
- 84 – 86.9 B 64 – 66.9 D
- 80 – 83.9 B- 60 – 63.9 D-
- 77 – 79.9 C+ 59 & below F

**Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges**

Every attempt will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. If you require accommodations, you need to register with the Disability Resource Center, if you have not done so already. Students with extended time may take exams in the DRC or through Adaptive Release function on Blackboard. Exam format choice must be sent to me via email by the end of the 3rd week.
Course Calendar
(Specific dates subject to change – students will be given reasonable notice to any changes)

8/26
  • Introduction to class.

8/28 – 8/30
  • Outline of Greek and Roman History
  • Chapter 1, Introduction to Greek Myth

9/2 Labor Day: No Class

9/3 LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE (without losing money)

9/4
  • Chapter 2, Ways of Interpreting Myth.

9/6-9/9
  • Chapter 3, In the Beginning: Hesiod’s Creation Story.
    – Primary Source Readings: Hesiod’s Theogony

9/11 – 9/13
  • Chapter 4, Alienation of the Human and Divine: Prometheus, Fire and Pandora.
    – Primary Source Readings: Hesiod, Works and Days. Aeschylus, Prometheus Bound

9/16 – 9/18
  • Chapter 5, The great Goddess and the Goddesses: The Divine Woman in Greek Mythology
    – Primary Source Readings: Homeric Hymn to Demeter

Exam 1 & Paper 1 Due

9/20
  • Chapter 6, The Olympian family of Zeus: Sharing Rule of the Universe

9/23 – 9/25
  • Chapter 7, In Touch with the Gods: Apollo’s Oracle at Delphi.
    – Primary Source Readings: Cynaethus of Chios, Hymn to the Pythian Apollo.
9/27 – 9/30
• Chapter 8, Dionysus: Rooted in Earth and Ecstasy
  – Primary Source Readings: Unknown author, Hymn to Dionysus

10/2
• Chapter 9, Land of No Return: The Gloomy Kingdom of Hades

10/4, 10/7, 10/9, 10/11
• Chapter 10: Heroes of Myth: Man Divided Against Himself

Exam 2 & Paper 2 Due

10/14 – 10/16
• Chapter 11: Heroines of Myth: Women in Many Roles

10/18, 10/21, 10/23
• Chapter 12: Heroes at War: The Troy Saga
  – Primary Source Readings: Homer, selections from Iliad

10/25, 10/28, 10/30
• Chapter 13: A Different Kind of Hero: The Quest of Odysseus
  – Primary Source Reading: Homer, Selections from Odyssey
• Movie Odysseus –Link on Blackboard

11/1
• Chapter 14: The Theater of Dionysus: Myth and the Tragic Vision

11/4 – 11/6
• Chapter 15: The House of Atreus: Aeschylus’ Orestia
  – Primary Source Readings: Aeschylus, Agamemnon, Libation-Bearers, Eumenides

Exam 3 & Paper 3

11/8, 11/13 No School Monday, Nov. 11 (Veteran’s Day)
• Chapter 16: The Tragic House of Laius: Sophocles’ Oedipus Cycle
  – Primary Source Readings: Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, Antigone

11/15, 11/18
• Chapter 17: A Different Perspective on Tragedy: Euripides’ Medea and the Bacchae
  – Primary Source Readings: Euripides, Medea, Bacchae
11/20, 11/22
  • Chapter 18: *The Roman Vision: Greek Myths and Roman Realities*

NO Class Week of Thanksgiving – can be used as makeup days if we are not on schedule

12/2, 12/4
  • Chapter 19: Virgil’s Roman Epic: *The Aeneid*
    – Primary Source Reading: Virgil, *The Aeneid*

12/6
  • Chapter 20: *The Retelling of Greek Myths: Ovid’s Metamorphoses*
    – Ovid, selections from the *Metamorphoses*

Exam 4 & Paper 4 Due: TBA Final’s Week