



ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Ben Jasnow

July 10-30, 2017

Course Description: This course surveys the central stories, gods, heroes, and monsters of Greek myth. We will read and analyze a variety of ancient literary and mythographical sources and interpret them in their cultural context. The course is constructed to take advantage of its Athenian setting. For example, when students tour the Athenian Acropolis and Agora, they study the myths and legends that took place or were depicted on the temples there. As students visit the ancient theater, they will study myths related to Dionysus. Readings about the underworld and afterlife accompany a trip to the ancient cemetery at the kerameikos. During visits to Roman and Neo-Classical Athenian landmarks, students will engage with Roman and modern reinterpretations of Greek myths. We will read some of the most interesting literary works of the ancient world, while becoming immersed in their material and social context.

Evaluation for students seeking credit:

Three, once-weekly quizzes, including term IDs, short answers, and essays.	40%
Rough draft of 5-7 pg. paper	10%
Final draft of 5-7 pg. paper	40%
Class participation	10%

Required Books:

- ◆ An online course-pack provided by the instructor
- ◆ *Anthology Of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation*. Edited and Translated by Stephen M. Trzaskoma and R. Scott Smith, & Stephen Brunet. Hackett. 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0872207219.
- ◆ *The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides (Modern Library Classics)*. Edited by Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm. Modern Library. 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0812993004.
- ◆ *The Iliad*. Homer. Trans. E. V. Rieu. Penguin Classics. 1990. ISBN-13: 978-0140275360.
- ◆ *The Odyssey*. Homer. Trans. E. V. Rieu. Penguin Classics. 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0140268867.

Schedule of Topics and Authors: We will read selections from the following authors and works. The assigned authors are to be completed in advance the class listed.

Readings marked with * may be found in *Anthology of Classical Myth*.

Readings marked with ^ may be found in *The Greek Plays*.

Readings marked with + may be found in the course-pack.

WEEK ONE

July 12: Athena; The Parthenon; The Foundation and First Kings of Athens

- Apollodorus, excerpts on the foundation and early kings of Athens+
- Homer, *Iliad*, excerpts
- Callimachus, *Hymn to Athena**
- *Homeric Hymn to Athena**
- Excerpts from Mary Beard, *The Parthenon*+
- Burkert, "Individual Gods"+

July 13: Athens and Theseus

- Plutarch, *Life of Theseus*, excerpts+
- Pausanias 1.17.2-3, Sanctuary of Theseus in Athens*
- Apollodorus on Theseus*
- Ovid, *Heroides*, Ariadne to Theseus*
- Euripides, *Hippolytus*^

July 14: Mythic Thebes and the Athenian Stage

- Homer, *Hymn to Dionysus**
- Euripides, *The Bacchae*^
- Sophocles, *Antigone*^

Field study: The remaining days of this week include visits to the Acropolis; Athenian Agora; Agora Museum; Theater of Dionysus; Lysicrates Monument.

WEEK TWO

July 19: Divine Order; Creation and Destruction of Man

- Hesiod, *Theogony**
- Hesiod, excerpt of *Works and Days**
- *Book of Genesis*, excerpts+
- *Daniel*, excerpt+
- Conon, on Deucalion*

July 20: Tales of Wild Heroes and Civilized Cities

- Apollodorus on Heracles*
- Apollodorus on Perseus*
- Pherecydes on Perseus*
- Aeschylus, *Eumenides*^

July 21: The Underworld and the Afterlife

- Virgil, *Georgics*, story of Orpheus and Euridice*
- Homer, *Odyssey* 11
- Plato, Myth of Er*
- *Homeric Hymn to Demeter**
- Bion, *Lament for Adonis**

Field study: The remaining days of this week include visits to the Pnyx; Areopagus; Kerameikos; Kerameikos Museum; Plato's Academy; day-trip to Eleusis

WEEK THREE

July 26: The Trojan War; Achilles as Heroic Paradigm

- Proclus, Summaries of the Cyclic Epics*
- Homer, *Iliad*, excerpts
- Ovid, *Heroides*, Briseis to Achilles*

July 27: Return from the Trojan War; Odysseus as Heroic Paradigm

- Homer, *Odyssey*, excerpts
- Ovid, *Heroides*, Penelope to Ulysses*
- Cavafy, *Ithaka*+

July 28: Aftermath of the Trojan War

- Homer, *Odyssey*, excerpts
- Euripides, *Trojan Women*^

Field study: The remaining days of this week include visits to the National Archaeological Museum; Roman Agora; Library of Hadrian; Temple of Olympian Zeus; Philopappus Monument; Byzantine Museum; Athenian Trilogy: Academy, University, National Library; day-trip to Sounion (optional: swimming)