University of North Texas

WLLC 3700 - Classical Mythology

EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS COURSE.

Instructor: Dr. John Thorburn, PhD

Office: LANG 401A

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:40-2:10 p.m. and by appointment

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Course Description: Classical Mythology introduces students to the myths of the ancient Greeks and Romans. In this course, students may read English translations of ancient Greek and Roman authors such as Hesiod, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Ovid.

Course Objectives:

Students will develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of the major figures, stories, and themes in classical mythology (i.e., Greek and Roman cultures). Students will explore the origins, significance, and cultural contexts of myths, enabling them to analyze and interpret these narratives critically.

Students will examine the cultural, historical, and societal contexts in which classical myths emerged. Through close analysis, students will uncover the ways in which myths reflected and influenced beliefs, values, rituals, and the artistic expressions of their respective civilizations.

This course will foster the ability to compare and contrast classical myths across different cultures and time periods. Students will identify common

motifs, variations, and adaptations of mythological narratives, enabling them to recognize universal themes while appreciating the diversity of mythological traditions.

Students will explore the interdisciplinary nature of classical mythology by examining its influence on literature, art, philosophy, psychology, and contemporary media. Through these connections, students will gain insights into how myths continue to shape modern storytelling and cultural references.

Students will develop advanced skills in critically analyzing and interpreting classical myths. Students will learn to apply various interpretive frameworks, such as psychological, feminist, and structuralist perspectives, to uncover layers of meaning within mythological narratives, fostering a deeper appreciation for the complexities of human experience.

Required Texts:

- Aeschylus II: *Oresteia*
- *The Complete Plays of Sophocles*
- *Euripides I: Alcestis, Medea, The Children of Heracles, Hippolytus*
- *The Facts on File Companion to Classical Drama* by John Thorburn

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In-Class Quizzes and Daily Assignments

Unannounced daily quizzes or announced daily assignments are worth 40% of your grade. We will probably have 17 of these quizzes and/or assignments. These activities must be completed inside our classroom unless I specify otherwise. Because the two lowest quizzes or assignments will be dropped, **no quiz or daily assignment may be taken early, taken late, or made up for any reason.**

IF YOU MISS A QUIZ and you want me to consider your absence as potentially excused, you must inform me as soon after the quiz as possible.

Any absence that you want to be considered for an excused absence must be accompanied by legitimate and proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note; jury duty summons).

Exams: We will have three exams in this course. Exam 1 is worth 15% of your grade; Exam 2 is worth 20% of your grade; Exam 3 (the Final Exam) is worth 25% of your grade. Any exam not taken at the scheduled time is subject to a grade reduction of 10% per day (including weekend days).

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GRADING

In-class Quizzes & Daily Assignments = 40%

Test 1 = 15% (Thursday, September 24)

Test 2 = 20% (Thursday, October 22)

Test 3 = 25% (Tuesday, December 8, 3:30-5:30 p.m.)

Grading Scale: A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C= 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

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Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Day Date Topic Reading Assignment

Tuesday 08/18 Introduction (NO READING TODAY)

Thursday 08/20 Creation, Ouranos, and Kronos; **Reading**: Selections from Hesiod's Theogony: Cosmogony, Titanomachy, Typhoeus)

Tuesday 08/25 Kronos and Zeus; **Reading**: Hesiod's Theogony: The Olympians Gods and Their Children

Thursday 08/27 Zeus and Hades; **Reading**: Homeric Hymn to Demeter

Tuesday 09/01 Apollo, Artemis, & Athena; **Reading: Ovid (selections on Apollo)**

Thursday 09/03 Legends of Athens; **Reading**: Euripides, *Ion*

Tuesday 09/08 Legends of Thebes. **Reading**: Ovid (selections on Europa, Cadmus, and Actaeon)

Thursday 09/10 Legends of Thebes. **Reading**: Euripides, *Bacchae*

Tuesday 09/15 Legends of Thebes. **Reading**: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Thursday 09/17 Legends of Thebes. **Reading**: Sophocles, *Antigone*

Tuesday 09/22 **Trojan War; Reading: Euripides, *Iphigenia in Aulis; Jephthah and his daughter (Judges 11:29-40)***

Thursday 09/24 FIRST EXAM (Chaos through & including Oedipus & Antigone)

Tuesday 09/29 Trojan War; Reading: Sophocles, *Ajax*

Thursday 10/01 Trojan War; Reading: Euripides, *Hecabe*

Tuesday 10/06 Odysseus; **Reading**: Euripides, *Cyclops*

Thursday 10/08 Agamemnon; **Reading**: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Tuesday 10/13 Agamemnon; **Reading**: Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers*

Thursday 10/15 Agamemnon; **Reading**: Aeschylus, *Eumenides*

Tuesday 10/20 Perseus; Reading: Ovid's *Metamorphoses* re. Perseus

Thursday 10/22 ***SECOND EXAM (Trojan War through & including Agamemnon's family)***

Tuesday 10/27 Heracles; Reading: Plautus' Amphitryon

Thursday 10/29 NO CLASS

Tuesday 11/03 **Heracles; Reading: Euripides, *Alcestis***

Thursday 11/05 **Heracles; Reading: Euripides, *Heracles***

Tuesday 11/10 **Heracles; Reading: Sophocles, *Trachinian Women***

Thursday 11/12 **Jason; NO READING TODAY**

Tuesday 11/17 **Jason; Reading: Euripides, *Medea***

Thursday 11/19 **Theseus; Reading: *Plutarch's Life of Theseus 3-12***

Tuesday 12/01 Theseus; **Reading**: Euripides, *Hippolytus*

Thursday 12/03 Catch up and Review: NO READING TODAY

Tuesday, December 8, 3:30-5:30 p.m. FINAL EXAM (Heracles to & including Theseus)

Classroom policies: Use of computers, phones, or other devices for any purpose than our class is not permitted. Everyone is responsible for creating a positive educational environment. Participation in class is a vital element of learning and therefore a necessary component in this course. Disruptive behavior (talking in class, chronic tardiness, etc.) will not be tolerated. If you are caught sleeping or texting during class, you may be dismissed for the day and you will receive a zero for your participation grade.

AI policy

In this course, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Grammarly AI, or similar technologies, is strictly prohibited unless explicitly authorized by the instructor. All submitted work must represent your original thoughts, analysis, and writing. The use of AI to generate, edit, or complete

assignments will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in disciplinary action per the institution's policies on academic integrity. This restriction is intended to ensure the development of your critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of any tool, consult the instructor before using it.

Student Behavior in the Classroom: Any behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu. Any problems should be discussed first with the instructor. I encourage open communication, so please let me know if you have unresolved issues in the class. If you are unable to resolve the issue directly with me, you should then make an appointment with the chairperson of the World Languages Department.

Students' Concerns and Complaints

Open communication is key to resolving concerns. Most issues or misunderstandings
can be addressed effectively when those directly involved engage in honest discussion.
If you have a concern related to your course, whether about materials, instruction,
assessments, or the classroom environment, please begin by speaking with your
instructor. If the matter remains unresolved, or if you are uncomfortable approaching
your instructor, you may contact the WLLC department.
To learn more about the complaint procedure or to file a formal complaint,

you can
access the document WLLC COURSE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS on the
departmental website: https://class.unt.edu/world-languages-literatures-cultures/resources/studentcomplaint.pdf
When emailing the department, be sure to include:
* Your first and last name
* Your instructor's name
* Your course title and section number
Thank you for helping us to maintain a supportive learning environment.

Policy concerning academic dishonesty: Students may study in groups or work together to learn trends, concepts, theories, etc. However, any form of cheating, whether on a homework assignment, composition, quiz, or exam will be dealt with severely and result in either an F on the assignment or, depending on the case, possibly an F in the course. All of these instances will be reported to UNT's Vice President for Academic Affairs and dealt with according to the University's policy on academic dishonesty.

Disability Accommodation: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For

additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323. More information can be found on the website of the Office of Disability Accommodation: https://disability.unt.edu/

Succeed at UNT: UNT endeavors to offer you a high quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you lean and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find support. Take control. Be prepared. Get involved. Be persistent. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to success.unt.edu.

Sexual discrimination, harassment, & assault: UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Announcements: Please like THE UNT CLASSICS COLLEGIUM page and the WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES pages on Facebook. This will keep you up to date on events, scholarships, etc. More announcements on our class will be available on our Canvas page at unt.instructure.com.

About syllabi policies at UNT:

1) http://inhouse.unt.edu/class-syllabi-expertise-available-faculty-profile-system

2) http://disability.unt.edu/parents-faculty-staff/taglines

About enrollment and registration:

1) http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide

Website of the Dean of Students: Useful for Academic Integrity, Conduct, Policies, and any other resource https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/

Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog: http://catalog.unt.edu/

Registration guide: please review all the info on http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide

Dropping for non attendance: http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1230#Class_Attendance

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT): Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available in late November and early December to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the Fall 2018 semester you will receive several reminders. The reminders are sent from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

COVID Statement:
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms testing/symptoms.html), please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.