

Classical Mythology/Contemporary Art

WF 12:45-2:05pm
Journalism Building 353

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12pm or by appointment

Course Description

Myths are stories. In the great works of ancient Greek and Roman Literature, from Homer to Ovid, we can read fantastic tales about the creation of the universe, gods, goddesses and heroes, lovers, villains and madmen. But myths are not *only* stories. Myths project a world-view, an ideology, a unique perspective on how ancient Greek and Roman societies lived and how they viewed their own cultures. In this way, myths are a powerful way of accessing what the ancient Greeks and Romans thought about several perennial questions: the role of humanity in the universe, the influence of the gods in the human world, what is heroic action, the question of what happens to us after death, the differences between the sexes and if love really makes the world go round. Yet Myths are *not* static; they are malleable, transformative and can be appropriated in various ways, well beyond the limits of the ancient Greek and Roman cultures that produce them. This course explores these issues across the wide range of Greek and Roman literature, focusing on how the spectrum of Greek and Roman mythology, from epic, cosmic, tragic and philosophical myth, can be understood in terms of key works and debates in Contemporary Art. While not claiming that Contemporary artists are directly re-writing Classical Myths, the class investigates broad thematic relationships and fundamental issues that are engaged in both Classical Myth and Contemporary Art. Such issues include ideas of war, trauma and homecoming, heroism, humans and the divine, issues of place and landscape, and conceptions of identity, history and desire. In the broadest sense possible, this class will help you not only appreciate the timelessness of Classical Myth and timeliness of Contemporary Art, but also the specificity of Classical Myths in Greek and Roman culture and the far-reaching ambitions of works of Contemporary Art.

This course is a **GE Literature** and **GE Diversity: Global Studies**.

GE Literature:

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works.
2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

GE Diversity: Global Studies

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

This course fulfills these GE requirements as follows, by:

- Exploring the timelessness of Classical myths, to show how we share fundamental human concerns and values with the ancient cultures and literatures of Greece and Rome, specifically through how such concerns and values resonate in works of Contemporary Art.
- Discovering the timeliness of Classical myths, to understand how they can help us appreciate cultural differences both within ancient cultures of Greece and Rome and in their reception in the modern world, specifically in terms of Contemporary Art.
- Learning to analyze, appreciate, and interpret (orally and in writing) significant literary works of Classical antiquity and works of Contemporary Art to show how mythological stories adapt and change according to the different literary and artistic manifestations in different cultural contexts.

(see the full descriptions of the revised GE requirements at <http://ascadvising.osu.edu/gec/curriculum>)

Course Components:

Attendance and discussion

You will be expected to do all the reading assigned to each class and be prepared to discuss the reading. Unexplained and/or undocumented absences will impact your attendance and participation grade.

Classical Myth Papers (CMP)

There will be **4** short papers spread out across the quarter (see separate 'Classical Myth Paper Sheet'). Each paper is to be 3-4 pages in length; or 1000-1300 words (typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font). All papers must be submitted to DROPBOX on Carmen by 12pm (noon) on the assigned date as a hard-copy. No late submissions will be accepted, nor submissions by students who miss class on paper due dates (without a documented excuse). Papers are due on the following dates:

CMP 1	W September 16 th
CMP 2	W October 14 th
CMP 3	W November 6 th
CMP 4	W December 2 nd

Contemporary Art Presentations (CAP)

You will present **2** brief in-class reports on works of Contemporary Art that you have seen at the Urban Arts Space and Wexner Center exhibitions. Each report should be 5 minutes long and include illustrative quotations and/or images, either in the form of a PowerPoint presentation or as a Handout.

CAP 1	October 7 th & 9 th
CAP 2	October 30 th & November 2 nd

Final Classical Myth/Contemporary Art Response Paper

The final Classical Myth/Contemporary Art Response Paper is a discussion of the relationship between Classical Myth and Contemporary Art, expanding on the reports of the **2** exhibitions you presented on earlier in the semester. The paper is to be 3-4 pages in length; or 1000-1300 words (typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font) and should include images of the discussed artworks. The project must be submitted to DROPBOX on Carmen by 12pm (noon) on **Wednesday December 9th** to my mailbox – UH 414. No late submissions or email submissions will be accepted.

Extra Credit Project

You will be given **2** opportunities to improve your grade by completing an extra credit project during the course worth 5% of your final grade. Information will be given about these opportunities in class. You can only complete **1** extra credit project during the course.

Grading

Attendance & Participation	10%
Classical Myth Papers (CMP)	60% (15% each)
Contemporary Art Presentations (CAP) (x2)	20%
Final Classical Myth/Contemporary Response Paper	10%
(Extra Credit Project	5%)

Grading Scale:

The OSU standard grading scale will be used for this course:

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E 0-59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 60-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72		

Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct http://studentlife.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

Textbooks (+ abbreviations for class schedule below)

- ALL textbooks are REQUIRED
- Buy THESE editions.
- Ensure you bring the relevant books to class.

H	<i>The Essential Homer</i> (Hackett 2000)
O	<i>Ovid Metamorphoses</i> (Hackett 2010)
P	<i>Plato Selected Myths</i> (Oxford 2004)
E	<i>Euripides: Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles, Bacchae</i> (Focus 2004)
ACM	<i>Anthology of Classical Myth</i> (Hackett 2004)

The Fine Print: *The syllabus is subject to change at any time. Please check for updates on Carmen or announcements in Class.*

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
August				
1	W 26	Orientation		
Part 1: Epic Myths: Achilles, Odysseus, Aeneas				
	F 28	Myth 1: Achilles, Homer, Troy	Homer <i>Iliad</i> 1, 2, 6, 9, 21, 22, 23, 24 (H 1-27, 69-82, 92-106, 199-240)	
September				
2	W 2	Myth 2: Odysseus' Tale-Telling	Homer <i>Odyssey</i> 1, 8-12, 19 (H 241-254, 294-331, 332-365, 403-422)	
	F 4	Myth 3: Heroes Remade	Theocritus <i>Idyll</i> 11 (ACM 399-401) Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> (ACM 410-430) Ovid <i>Heroides</i> (ACM 306-313) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 12. 1-246; 14. 1-715 (O 325-332; 385-406).	
3	W 9	Art 1: Class Visit to Billy Ireland Cartoon Library Exhibition: <i>Seeing the Great War</i> . Time: 1pm . Directions: http://cartoons.osu.edu/visit-us/		
	F 11	Art 2: Picturing Myth		
4	W 16	Art 3: Guest Lecture: Jessica Abel on Comics, Narrative, Art		<u>CMP 1 due</u>
Part 2: Creation Myths: the Universe, Gods & Humans				
	F 18	Myth 1: In the Beginning was...	Hesiod (ACM 129-167); Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1. 453(O 5-18)	
5	W 23	Myth 2: Stories of Gods and Goddesses	<i>Homeric Hymns to Apollo & Hermes</i> (ACM 169-202) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1. 454-802; 2. 445-971(O 18-28; 45-61)	
	F 25	Myth 3: Divine Love & Human Art	<i>Homeric Hymns to Demeter & Aphrodite</i> (ACM 169-178; 197-202) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 5. 387-766; 10.266-331 (O 133-140; 274-276).	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
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6	W 30	Art 1: Class Visit to Urban Arts Space (Curator tour by Joseph R. Wolin)		
		Exhibition: <i>Open This End</i> Time: 1:15pm Directions: https://uas.osu.edu/visit-us		
	October			
	F 2	NO CLASS (visit Urban Arts Space on own – see directions above)		

7	W 7	Art 2: Creating Worlds		<u>CAP 1</u>
	F 9	Art 3 : Love & its Discontents		<u>CAP 1</u>

Part 3: Tragic Myths: Thebes, Medea & Hippolytus

8	W 14	Myth 1: Dionysus in Thebes	Euripides <i>Bacchae</i> (E 205-267) <i>Homeric Hymn to Dionysus</i> (ACM 203) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 3. 562-810 (O 81-88)	<u>CMP 2 due</u>
	F 16	NO CLASS (Fall Break)		
9	W 21	Myth 2: Multiple Medeas	Euripides <i>Medea</i> (E 35-92) Ovid <i>Heroides</i> (ACM 322-328) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 7. 1-503 (O 175-189)	
	F 23	Myth 3: Hippolytus Redux	Euripides <i>Hippolytus</i> (E 93-148) Ovid <i>Heroides</i> (ACM 314-318) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 15. 516-602 (O 431-434)	

10	W 28	Art 1: Class Visit to Wexner Center for the Arts Exhibition: <i>After Picasso: 80 Contemporary Artists</i> Time: 1pm Directions: http://wexarts.org/visit/location-and-directions		
	F 30	Art 2: Portraits & Identity		<u>CAP 2</u>
	November			

11	W 4	Art 3: Drama & the Body		<u>CAP 2</u>
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Part 4: Philosophical Myths: Plato and his Mythmaking (CMA Feeley)

	W 6	Myth 1: Origins	Plato <i>Protagoras</i> (P 3-7) Plato <i>Statesman</i> (P 85-121) Plato <i>Symposium</i> (P 15-39)	<u>CMP 3 due</u>
12	W 11	NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
	F 13	Myth 2: The Afterlife	Plato <i>Gorgias</i> (P 8-14) Plato <i>Republic</i> (P 51-68) Plato <i>Phaedo</i> (P 40-50)	
13	W 18	Myth 3: Myth after Plato	Cornutus, Fulgentius, Heraclitus, Sallustius, (ACM 89-91, 111-113, 116-120, 383-384) Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i> 15. 1-515 (P 417-431)	
	F 20	Art 1: Class Visit to Columbus Museum of Art (Curator tour by Tyler Cann) Exhibition: <i>Imperfections by Chance: Paul Feeley Retrospective, 1954-1966</i> Time: 1:15pm Directions: http://www.columbusmuseum.org/visiting/how-to-get-here/		
14	W 25	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)		
	F 27	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)		
	December			
15	W 2	Art 2: Abstraction & Ideas		<u>CMP 4 due</u>
	F 4	Art 3: Guest Lecture by Artists from <i>Myths of the Academy</i> Project)		
	<u>W 9</u>	<u>Final Classical Myth/Contemporary Art Response Paper Due</u>		