

**Classics 430U, Greek and Roman Mythology**  
Winter 1999  
Th 4:30-7:10, Parrington 108

**Instructor:** Christopher M. Chinn

**Office:** Lewis Annex 1, Room 202

**Office Hours:** MW 11:30-12:20, or by appointment. Messages may be left by telephone (685-7954 or 543-2266) or dropped off in my mailbox (located in Denny 218). I can also be contacted through email: cchinn@u.washington.edu.

**Course Objective**

The goal of this course is to provide the student with a basic understanding and appreciation of the principal myths of ancient Greece and Rome. This goal will be accomplished through lectures on an discussion of texts by important classical authors. In examining these texts we will primarily be concerned with (1) understanding the facts of Greco-Roman mythology, (2) analyzing stories and story-types, and (3) developing modes of interpreting these stories.

**Course Plan**

In order to accomplish the objective stated above, I will provide students will commentary on our source-texts, lectures on topics relevant to these texts and to mythology in general, and various other presentations (e.g. slide shows on Greek and Roman visual representations of mythological subject matter). Students are responsible for close and critical readings of all assigned texts. Please feel free to raise any pertinent questions you may have during class.

**Required Texts**

This course focuses on readings of ancient Greek and Roman literary texts. The following list represents the texts we will examine this quarter. Be sure to obtain the translations specifically listed below since translations can vary widely. If you want to consult a standard mythology textbook, see the "Reference Works" list at the end of this syllabus for some examples.

Apostolos N. Athanassakis, translator. *The Homeric Hymns*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976.

-----, *Hesiod: Theogony, Works and Days, Shield*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983.

Robert Fagles, translator. *Homer: The Iliad*. New York: Penguin, 1990.

H. D. F. Kitto, translator. *Sophocles: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Electra*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

A. D. Melville, translator. *Ovid: Metamorphoses*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.

## Requirements

The course is lecture-based and worth three credits. This situation limits evaluation of student performance to a small number of exams. These exams will take two forms: four quizzes and a final.

**Quizzes (50%):** There will be four quizzes given throughout the course of the quarter (see schedule for specific dates). Since we will not be having a midterm, quizzes will be cumulative; quizzes will, however, emphasize material covered more recently. Please bring a mark sense form to all quizzes.

**Final Examination (50%):** The final will take place on Friday, March 19 in PAR 108 and will be comprehensive, covering material from all the lecture and discussions. Please bring a mark sense form to the final.

Quizzes and the Final must be taken on the dates listed. The only conditions under which the student may schedule an alternate test date are outline on page 16 of the current U.W. time schedule. Since we will not be using a textbook, student attendance is extremely important: all material on quizzes and exams will derive from the lectures and discussion.

## Grading

The following scale will be used in the final evaluation of student performance. This scale corresponds to the one in the online version of the U.W. student handbook.

100-98	A	4.0	81	B-	2.8	71	C-	1.8
97-95	A	3.9	80	B-	2.7	70	C-	1.7
			79	B-	2.6	69	C-	1.6
94	A-	3.8	78	B-	2.5	68	C-	1.5
93-92	A-	3.7						
91	A-	3.6	77	C+	2.4	67	D+	1.4
90-89	A-	3.5	76	C+	2.3	66	D+	1.3
			75	C+	2.2	65	D+	1.2
88-87	B+	3.4						
86	B+	3.3	74	C	2.1	64	D	1.1
85	B+	3.2	73	C	2.0	63	D	1.0
			72	C	1.9	62	D	0.9
84	B	3.1						
83	B	3.0				61	D-	0.8
82	B	2.9				60	D-	0.7

## Schedule of Readings and Discussion

Greek and Roman mythology is a vast subject that admits of only cursory investigation within our time limits. The following represents an arbitrary division of Greek and Roman myth into two main parts. Please note the following list of abbreviations.

*Th.*=*Theogony*, with references to line numbers.

*W.D.*=*Works and Days*, with references to line numbers.

*H.H.*=*Homeric Hymn(s)*, with references to hymn number and line numbers (e.g. 4.78-81).

*Oed.*=*Oedipus the King*, with references to line numbers.

*Ant.*=*Antigone*, with references to line numbers.

*Il.*=*Iliad*, with references to book and line numbers (e.g. 1.110-203).

*Met.*=*Metamorphoses*, with references to page numbers (e.g. pp. 203-204).

### Part 1: Gods and creation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Quiz</u>
1/7	Introduction		
1/14	First generation of the gods and creation	<i>Th.</i> 1-452; <i>H.H.</i> 30.1-19; <i>Met.</i> pp. 1-3	
1/21	The older Olympian gods	<i>Th.</i> 453-880; <i>Il.</i> 8.1-31; 13.12-18; 15.201-259; <i>H.H.</i> 2.1-495	
1/28	The younger Olympian gods	<i>Th.</i> 881-1022; <i>H.H.</i> 3.1-546; 4.1-580; 5.1-293; <i>Met.</i> pp. 14-18	Quiz 1
2/4	Human creation and the notion of the hero	<i>W.D.</i> 47-201; <i>Met.</i> pp. 3-14; pp. 93-106; pp. 144-156; pp. 199-209	

### Part 2: Heroic myth

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Quiz</u>
2/11	The Theban cycle, part 1	<i>Oed.</i> 1-1530	Quiz 2
2/18	The Theban cycle, part 2	<i>Ant.</i> 1-1352	
2/25	The Trojan War, part 1	<i>Il.</i> 1.1-735; 9.1-869	Quiz 3
3/4	The Trojan War, part 2	<i>Il.</i> 16.1-1017; 24.1-944	
3/11	Nostoi and aftermath	<i>Met.</i> pp. 291-317; pp. 327-332	Quiz 4

Final exam: Friday, March 19, Parrington 108

The above schedule is subject to change depending on our use of class time. Also, please bring ALL texts to class, since in lecture we will be frequently referring both to assigned readings and to passages not assigned.

## History and Myth

Greek and Roman mythology is comprised of stories. These stories seem to have been handed down over time orally until at some point they were written down. The written versions we possess today come from Greek and Roman authors who wrote over a vast expanse of time. Below is a list of some important Classical authors in their historical context.

<u>Time Line</u>	<u>Epochs and events</u>	<u>Sources</u>
Prehistoric Period		Archeology
7000-3000 BCE	Neolithic Age	
3000-2000 BCE	Bronze Age	
ca. 2000 BCE	first Greek-speaking people enter Greece	
ca. 1500 BCE	rise of Mycenae	
ca. 1250 BCE	fall of Troy	
1100-750 BCE	Iron Age	
ca. 1100 BCE	Dorians invade Greece	
1100-750 BCE	Dark Age of Greece	
Historic Period		
750-480 BCE	Archaic Period of Greece	Homer
700-600 BCE	Emergence of Greek city-states	Hesiod Homeric Hymns
480-323 BCE	Classical Period of Greece	Pindar
490-480 BCE	Persian Wars	Aeschylus
431-404 BCE	Peloponnesian War	Herodotus Sophocles Euripides Aristophanes Plato
352-323 BCE	Reign of Alexander the Great	
323-27 BCE	Hellenistic Period of Greece	Callimachus Apollonius
27 BCE-476 CE	Roman Period	
23 BCE-14 CE	Augustan Age of Rome	Virgil Ovid Livy

Please note that the Roman history does not begin in 27 BCE (indeed, the Romans traditionally dated the founding of their city around the year 750 BCE). Rather, this date marks Rome's first significant contribution to the literature of mythology.

## Nomenclature and Orthography

The spelling of Greek names in particular varies widely in the texts we will be reading. In addition, the Romans had different names for Greek mythological figures and the Greeks themselves sometimes give their mythical characters more than one name. Below are lists of many of the gods and a few of the heroes.

### Gods

<u>Greek</u>	<u>Roman</u>
Aphrodite	Venus
Apollo, Apollon, Phoebus, Phoibos	Apollo, Phoebus
Ares	Mars
Athena, Athene	Minerva
Artemis	Diana
Cronus, Kronos	Saturn
Demeter	Ceres
Dionysus, Dionysos, Bacchus, Bakchos	Bacchus
Ge, Gaea, Gaia	Terra
Hades, Plouton	Pluto
Hephaestus, Hephaistos	Vulcan
Hera, Here	Juno
Hermes	Mercury
Poseidon	Neptune
Rhea, Rheia	Ops
Uranus, Ouranos	Uranus
Zeus	Jupiter, Jove

### Heroes

<u>Greek</u>	<u>Roman</u>
Achilles, Achilleus, Akhilleus	Achilles
Aeneas, Aineias	Aeneas
Ajax, Aias	Ajax
Heracles, Herakles	Hercules
Odysseus	Ulysses

### Common changes

<u>Changes</u>	<u>Examples</u>
k→c	Kirke→Circe
ai→ae	Aischylos→Aeschylus
oi→oe	Oidipous→Oedipus
ei→i	Teiresias→Tiresias
ei→e	Medeia→Medea
final -os→-us	Olympos→Olympus
final -on→-um	Ilion→Ilium

## Reference Works

- Graf, F. *Greek Mythology: An Introduction*, translated by T. Marier. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.
- Grant, M. *Myths of the Greeks and Romans*. New York: New American Library, 1962.
- Graves, R. *The Greek Myths*. New York: Penguin, 1960, reprint 1992.
- Hamilton, E. *Mythology*. New York: New American Library, 1942.
- Harris, S. L. and G. Platzner. *Classical Mythology: Images and Insights*. London and Toronto: Mayfield, 1995.
- Hornblower, S. and A. Spawforth. *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Morford, M. P. O. and R. J. Lenardon. *Classical Mythology*, 5th edition. New York: Longman, 1995.
- Powell, B. *Classical Myth*, 2nd edition. New York: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Rose, H. J. *A Handbook of Greek Mythology*. New York: Dutton, 1959.
- Tripp, E. *The Meridian Handbook of Classical Mythology*. New York: Dutton, 1974.