

CULTURE AND BELIEF 35: CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

SPRING 2013

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Description

Incest and parricide, cannibalism and self-blinding: classical mythology has fascinated artists, writers, and thinkers throughout western civilization, and this course will serve as an introduction to this strange and brilliant world. We shall move from the very first works of Greek literature (noting some of their precursors from the Near East) through to the closing of the pagan temples in late antiquity; on the way, we shall encounter a variety of different stances an ancient people adopted with regard to their stories about themselves, their world, and their heroes. Emphasis will be laid on primary readings, which will be set into their contemporary historical and cultural contexts by the lectures. Further aspects to be considered include ancient rationalization of myth, myth and politics, and, to a lesser extent, the reception of classical myth in the modern world.

Objectives

To introduce students to the mythology of the classical world as well as to provide an opportunity to read some of the core texts of the western canon in a structured setting. Students will gain 1) a working knowledge of the Greek gods, heroes, and mythic narratives; 2) an awareness of how the latter change from telling to telling; and 3) a sense of what classical myth means for us today.

Prerequisites

None

Time and Place

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am; Yenching Library Auditorium (2 Divinity Avenue).

Textbooks and Texts

The CB 35 Sourcebook should be purchased from the Coop.

The following may be bought either at the Coop or online:

- Raeburn, D. & Feeney, D. C. (2004) *Ovid: Metamorphoses*, Penguin Classics
- Lattimore, R. & Martin, R. (2011) *The Iliad of Homer*, University of Chicago Press
- Lattimore, R. (2007) *The Odyssey of Homer*, Harper Perennial Modern Classics
- Trzaskoma, S. M.; Smith, R. S.; Brunet, S. (2004) *Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation*, Hackett Publishing Company
- Rutherford, R.; Davie, J. (2003) *Euripides: Medea and Other Plays*, Penguin Classics

Assessment

Paper I (4-6 pages), to be handed in at the lecture on Thursday, March 7: 15%

Midterm examination on Thursday, March 14: 20%

Paper II (6-7 pages), to be handed in at the lecture on Tuesday, April 30: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Section attendance and participation: 15%

Senior thesis policy

Seniors writing theses have the automatic option of taking a deferred midterm exam on a date TBA in the first week after Spring Break.

Film screening

The amusing film *Jason and the Argonauts* – featuring stop-motion harpies, fighting skeletons, and dubious acting – will be projected in the second half of the semester. Attendance at one of the screenings is required; if you are unable to make these, you will be expected to watch the video on your own (it will form a basis for discussion in the relevant section).

Collaboration:

While talking about issues and approaches outside of class is greatly encouraged, do refrain from collaborating on assessment exercises! The full collaboration policy statement is on the isite.

Disabilities:

If you feel that you will need an academic adjustment, I shall need to see a Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office by the end of the second week of the semester (February 8).

Lecture Policy:

It is essential to attend **all** lectures, barring cases of illness or urgency.

Lectures will begin promptly at 11:07am, and it is expected that you will be seated by this time.

Please also note that readings are to be completed *before* the relevant lecture!

Section Policy:

Punctual attendance is **required** for all sections; two unexplained absences will result in a lowering of the participation grade by a third.

No student may attend a section other than the one to which (s)he has been assigned without prior arrangement.

For sections, students will be expected to submit a weekly response (one decent-sized paragraph, certainly no more than one page, double-spaced) at the beginning of the section. These will be graded on a scale of “check+”, “check”, “check-”.

The prompts for these responses will be provided on a handout distributed at the end of each section and posted on the isite under “Section Assignments”.

Regarding papers: section leaders are happy to discuss outlines with you, but will not be able to read drafts.

There will be no section between March 14 and March 26 (Midterm Break)

Some Tips for Effective Reading:

Read/skim the introductions to material before tackling the material itself.

Be sure to note the dates given at the beginning of each excerpt by Trzaskoma, Smith, and Brunet.

Take notes as you read (“active reading”).

Provisional Schedule

TSB = Trzaskoma, Smith, and Brunet

* = Text provided in the Sourcebook

Other material will be placed on the isite under “PDF’s”

<i>Date</i>	<i>Content of lecture</i>	<i>Reading assigned</i>
Jan. 29	Introduction	
Jan. 31	Contexts of classical mythology I	Powell: “The Cultural Context”* (+isite)
Feb. 5	Contexts of classical mythology II	<i>Genesis</i> 1-8* <i>Gilgamesh</i> , Tablet XI* Apollodorus 1.7.1-3 = TSB 23

CREATION AND THE GODS

Feb. 7	Creation myth and the Olympians	Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> = TSB 129-160
Feb. 12	Zeus, Hera, and the human condition I	Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i> 1-234 = TSB 160-167 Archilochus, frag. 122, 130, 177 = TSB 58 Semonides, <i>The Different Kinds of Women</i> = TSB 387-390
Feb. 14	Zeus, Hera, and the human condition II	Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</i> *
Feb. 14-19	First meetings of sections.	
Feb. 19	Athena, Artemis, and Aphrodite	<i>Homeric Hymns</i> to Artemis and Athena = TSB 204-205, 208 <i>Homeric Hymns</i> to Aphrodite 5, 6 = TSB 197-203 Sappho, frag. 1 = TSB 385-386 Sophocles, frag. 941 = TSB 393 Callimachus, <i>Hymn to Athena</i> = TSB 76-80 Apollodorus M8, Teiresias = TSB 52 Hyginus 165, Athens = TSB 264 Apollodorus M3, Actaion = TSB 48 Bion, <i>Lament for Adonis</i> = TSB 73-75 Love spell = TSB 475-476 (read intro: 472)
Feb. 21	Apollo, Hermes, Ares, and Hephaestus	<i>Iliad</i> 1.568-611 (Hephaestus) Apollodorus, “Hephaistos and Athena” = TSB 19 <i>Odyssey</i> 8.266-366 (Ares and Aphrodite) <i>Homeric Hymns</i> to Apollo and Hermes = TSB 178-197
Feb. 26	Demeter, Dionysus, Pan, Poseidon	<i>Homeric Hymns</i> to Demeter,

		Dionysus, Pan, Poseidon = TSB 169-178, 203, 206, 207 Apollodorus M4 = TSB 48-49 Longus, <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> = TSB 277-278 Pausanias B, Dionysus = TSB 344-345 Hyginus 165, Marsyas = TSB 264-265 Hyginus 138, Philyra = TSB 259 <i>Iliad</i> 23.54-107 (Patroclus' ghost) <i>Odyssey</i> 11 (Odysseus in Hades) Aeschylus, frag. 161 = TSB 6 Virgil, <i>Georgics</i> 4.453-4.527 = TSB 430-432 Plato, <i>Republic</i> 10.614a-621d = TSB 367-372
Feb. 28	Hades and the Underworld	
Mar. 5	Critique, rationalization, allegory	Xenophanes fragments = TSB 433-434 Plato, <i>Republic</i> 2376d-2.380c = TSB 363-367 Critias, from <i>Sisyphos</i> = TSB 92-93 Palaephatus, "Prologue", "The Centaurs", "Actaion" = TSB 329-330, 332 Cleanthes, <i>Hymn to Zeus</i> = TSB 84-85 Lucretius, from books 1 and 5 = TSB 298-301, 303-305 Diodorus of Sicily, <i>H.L.</i> 5.66-70 = TSB 96-100 Heraclitus, frag. 5, 54, 56, 69 = TSB 116-119 Cornutus, <i>Compendium</i> = TSB 89-91

HEROES

Mar. 7	Jason	Apollodorus, Jason = TSB 25-30 Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
Mar. 7	PAPER I due in lecture.	
Mar. 12	Perseus, Theseus, Heracles	Apollodorus, Perseus = TSB 31-33 Apollodorus, Theseus = TSB 54-57 Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> = TSB 376-377 Apollodorus, Heracles' youth and labors = TSB 33-42 Xenophon, <i>Memorabilia</i> 2.1.21-2.1.34 = TSB 435-437
Mar. 14	MIDTERM	
Mar. 19	Spring break	

Mar. 21	Spring break	
Mar. 26	Thebes	Apollodorus, M6-M9 = TSB 50-53 Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> *
Mar. 28	Theories of myth	Nietzsche, <i>Birth of Tragedy</i> * Freud on Oedipus* Vernant, <i>Hesiod's Myth of Races: An Essay in Structural Analysis</i> (isite)
Apr. 2	The Trojan War I	Hyginus 92, Paris = TSB 243-244 Proclus A = TSB 378 Summary of the <i>Iliad</i> *
Apr. 4	The Trojan War II	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1, 6, 9 Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 22, 24 Proclus B, C, and D = TSB 380-381
Apr. 9	The Trojan War III	Proclus E = TSB 381-382 Summary of the <i>Odyssey</i> *
Apr. 11	The return of Odysseus	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 9, 10, 12 Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 19, 22, 23
ROMAN "MYTH"		
Apr. 16	The story of Aeneas	<i>Iliad</i> 5.1-362 Virgil, selections from the <i>Aeneid</i> = TSB 410-430 Horace, <i>Epode</i> VII, XVI* <i>Odes</i> I.II, I.XXXV * <i>Carmen Saeculare</i> *
Apr. 18	Ovid I	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1, 2, 3
Apr. 23	Ovid II	Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 4.1-166 (Pyramus and Thisbe) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 4.604-5.249 (Perseus) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 6.1-312 (Arachne and Niobe) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 6.382-674 (Marsyas, Tereus, Philomela, and Procne) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 8.1-235 (Scylla, Ariadne, Minotaur, Daedalus and Icarus) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 8.611-878 (Philemon and Baucis, Erysichthon) Selections from Shakespeare's <i>Titus Andronicus</i> and <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
Apr. 25	Ovid III	Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 10.1-11.84 (Orpheus) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 12.189-209 (Caenis) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 12.580-628 (Achilles) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 13.1-575 (Troy) Ovid, <i>Met.</i> 15.581-851 (The apotheoses)
Apr. 30	The twilight of the gods	<i>Matthew</i> 3-8*

Selected Excerpts from the *Theodosian
Law Code**

Libanius, *Oration 30, For the Temples**

Sallustius = TSB 383-384

Fulgentius, *Myths* = TSB 111-113

Apr. 30 **PAPER II due in lecture.**