

## **Classical Mythology**

Humanities 102W

Section: J100

Term: 2012 Summer

Instructor: Bill Dow

Discussion Topics: This course will focus on the stories the people of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds told to entertain each other, to explain the nature of their world and its institutions, to reflect on current challenges, and to preserve a memory of their distant past. Their mythology was thus an almost pervasive vehicle for communication, a sort of language. Because classical mythology is also so thoroughly anthropomorphic, it has also raised questions about the nature of the human condition. These questions have led people to return to its stories continually since antiquity. While keeping aware of our own, modern perspective, our goal in this course is to begin to master and appreciate these stories and the role they played in the culture that produced them. We shall read the stories in the great literary forms of the ancient Greek world, epic and tragedy, and seek an appreciation of them as storytelling forms.

The course will emphasize writing, with four short (500-word) writing assignments required.

Grading: 4 short papers 60%

Mid-term quiz 10%

Tutorial participation 10%

Final exam 20%

For every class, students will be expected to have done the required readings and to be able to participate in discussion about the assigned topics. Grades for participation rely on the following factors: presence, constructive oral discussion, and reading preparation. (In order to be constructive, discussion must shed some light on the texts.)

Each student must hand in four 450-500-word prepared papers. The papers must address the topics each week and be handed in at the lectures the day the material is being discussed (keep a copy for yourself).

The mid-term quiz (25 minutes) will have multiple-choice questions based on the readings and lectures. The final exam (90 minutes) will have both multiple-choice and essay questions.

Required Texts: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*, Penguin Classics ISBN 9780140443332 trans. Fagles

Euripides, *Euripides 10 Plays* Signet Classics ISBN 9780451527004 trans Roche

Homer, *The Iliad* Penguin Classics trans Fagles ISBN 9780140445923

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Homer, *The Odyssey*, Penguin Classics trans. Fagles. ISBN 9780140268867

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*. Oxford Worlds Classics. ISBN 019283472X

Sophocles *The Theban Plays* Penguin Classics ISBN 9780140440034

Recommended Texts: *The Homeric Hymns*

Hesiod, *Theogony and Works and Days*

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.