

Classics 101: Greek and Roman Mythology
Fall 2021
MW, 2:05-3:30pm
Room B304

Professor Elizabeth Wueste

Email: e.wueste@aur.edu
Office: Building B, B404 (also some office hours on Zoom)
Office Phone: ext. 241
Office Hours: M 12-2 in person on campus, B404;
T 12-2 drop-in via Zoom (Meeting 99113305952, PW 875528);
and always by appointment

Credits and Hours: 3 credits, 3 hours/week

Prerequisites: none

Field Trips: Friday, Nov 5: Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

Entry Fees: €16 each, paid by students on Nov 5

Course Description

Mythology is the study of the legends about the origins and history of a people, their deities, ancestors and heroes. The stories of the gods and legendary heroes of the Greco-Roman tradition have provided the fountainhead for literature and the arts in the service of religious and political imagery down to the present. While the emphasis will be primarily literary, with extensive readings of such writers as Homer and Vergil (noting, in passing, the influence upon later literature). The visual depiction of these myths will also be studied. A field trip to a museum in Rome may be required.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) identify and define the principal deities and legendary figures of Ancient Greece and Rome, as narrated and dramatized in some of the major works of Classical literature (in translation);
- 2) assess critically the role of myth in ancient society; and
- 3) contrast the use of myth in the ancient world with comparable mechanisms in our own society.

Required Texts

Approximately 100 pages of reading are assigned per week. All texts are required.

1. Powell, Barry. 2015. *Classical Myth. 8th Edition*. ISBN:978-0321967046. \$35-85
2. Homer. 2000. *The Essential Homer*, trans. S. Lombardo. ISBN:978-0872205406. \$4-17
3. Aeschylus. 1998. *Oresteia*, trans. P. Meineck. ISBN:978-0872203907. \$5-15
4. PDFs of additional required readings available on myaur.edu. These should not be reproduced or circulated in any way outside of this class.

Assessment Tools (see full AUR Grading Policy at the end of this syllabus)

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|-----|---|
| 10% | Participation (including preparation, assignments for discussions, discussions) |
| 5% | Field trip activity (Friday, Nov 5) |
| 8% | Information Literacy (3 homework at 3%, 1 activity at 5% on Nov 29) |
| 15% | Paper 1 (500-750 words), due Oct 13 |
| 20% | Paper 2 (1000-1250 words), due Dec 1 |
| 25% | 2 Midterms (12.5% each), Sept 29 and Nov 3 |
| 17% | Final Exam, Dec 13 from 1-3pm in B304 |

Attendance (see full AUR Attendance Policy at the end of this syllabus)

Per AUR policy, attendance is required and students must attend a minimum of 70% of classes to pass. Each student gets 3 unexcused absences.

Participation

Students are expected to actively participate during class, whatever format it takes. In person, that includes discussion, notetaking, group work, activities, etc. Online, that includes at least 2 chat comments per class, or keeping your camera on.

Papers 1 and 2

Twice during the semester, you will be required to write a short paper answering a specific topic (to be distributed 2-3 weeks in advance of due date). Neither are research papers, and no secondary source material is needed. Your evidence will be the ancient texts (in translation) and images. Proper citation and adherence to AUR's Academic Integrity Policy are required. Papers are due in digital form (Word, Pages, Gdoc, etc) by 5pm on the due dates via Turnitin on my.aur.edu. Without my express permission and foreknowledge, late papers will be penalized by as much as a full letter grade (e.g. A→B) for each day late.

Midterms

Two in-class midterms will test your comprehension of the material thus far. The format will include some map questions, short answers, slide identifications, term identifications and a few words about their significance, and an essay question. Each midterm will NOT be cumulative. Study guides will be distributed in advance.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021 from 1-3pm in B304. It will be similar in format to the midterm (but longer), and will consist of include some map questions, short answers, slide identifications, term identifications and a few words about their significance, and essay question(s). The exam will be cumulative, but very heavily weighted toward material in last third of the course. Study guides will be distributed in advance.

Academic Integrity

Just do your own work! For this class, this includes all readings, quizzes, exams, and papers. For in-class exams, cheating is using any aid outside of your own mind. This includes paper, human, and digital resources. For the paper, cheating involves plagiarizing any ideas, phrases, or text that you did not create yourself. Proper citation is required for all papers. AUR requires that students sign an "Student Integrity Statement" for all papers. All acts of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the Dean. Please see "Academic Integrity" on AUR's website for more information: <https://aur.edu/node/436#ai>.

Late Work

Extensions will only be given in unusual, unavoidable circumstances, and must be requested **before** the due date or exam date. Please come and talk to me as early as possible if you are having trouble or anticipate having trouble in meeting a deadline.

Office Hours

My office hours are Mondays 12-2 in person in B404 and Tuesdays 12-2 via Zoom. You are encouraged to come with specific questions relating to course material, to discuss broader academic issues, or just to chat. Any broad or complicated, multi-part question that requires a lengthy explanation should be asked during my office hours, and not over email. Especially for those who are shy and do not speak up often in class, I recommend office hours as an additional avenue for participation.

Learning Accommodations

If you require disability-related learning accommodations in this class, please contact Dean's Office, who will then contact me to work out the details.

AUR Grade Point Average Policy

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

AUR Grades Policy

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		

AUR Attendance Policy

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for 1 absence from classes meeting 1x a week;
Students will not be penalized for 3 absences from classes meeting 2x a week;
Students will not be penalized for 4 absences from classes meeting more than 2x week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays: The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays). Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

My Pandemic Policy

The current global pandemic places extraordinary pressures on both students and faculty to stay flexible, adapt, and work as a community to maintain the public health and also attain some semblance of normalcy. This class will operate under the following stipulations:

1. Every effort will be made to adhere to this syllabus, but adjustment may become necessary should we be forced to lockdown and/or go online. In that case:
 - a. All class attendance, readings, and abstracts will remain required as planned;
 - b. Attendance policy will shift to required Zoom attendance and participation;
 - c. Presentations will still be required in Zoom format, though dates may

- change;
 - d. Papers will still be required, though dates may change;
 - e. Class meetings may switch to other forms of active engagement,
including Zoom discussion groups, online discussion boards, etc.
2. Students must remain connected to the email listed in their my.aur account as much as possible;
 3. If you are feeling sick, PLEASE STAY HOME and keep us all safe. You are no hero for coming into class if you aren't feeling well. Stay in contact with me as much as you can, and we will work out a way for you to get the information/ keep up with missed work. Don't risk the health of our entire community.
 4. Just be cool right now. This sucks for all of us, and we are all doing the best we can.

Schedule of Readings

I will stick to this as best I can.
It's a pandemic, so everything could change.
Please just be cool about it.

★ Indicates that the reading is a “primary source”— an ancient literary “artifact” written in Antiquity

Week 1: Welcome + Creation Myths

Aug 30: Introduction; What is Myth? What is Classics?

- (skim) Powell, Chapters 1, 2, and 3, p. 1-76
- [NPR Life Kit Podcast Sept 1, 2020: How to study without burning out \(23 min\).](#)

Sept 1: Creation

- Powell, Chapter 4, p. 77-107
- ★ Hesiod, *Theogony*, p. 61-90 (PDF on myaur.edu)

Week 2: The Olympians: Gods

Sept 6: Gods: Zeus and Hera, Poseidon and Hades

- Powell, Chapter 6, p. 134-156; and part of Chapter 12, p. 292-299

Sept 8: Gods II: Apollo, Hephaestus, Ares, Hermes, Pan

- Powell, Chapters 7 and 8, p. 157-199
- ★ *Homeric Hymns to Apollo (#3), Hermes (#4 and 18), Ares (#8), Pan (#19)* (PDF on myaur.edu)

Week 3: The Olympians: Goddesses

Sept 13: Goddesses: Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena, Hestia

- Powell, Chapter 9, p. 200-229
- ★ *Homeric Hymns to Aphrodite (#5, 6, and 10), Artemis (#9 and 27), Athena (#11 and 28)* (PDF on myaur.edu)

Sept 15: Goddesses II: Demeter and Persephone

- Powell, Chapter 10, p. 230-261
- ★ *Homeric Hymn to Demeter (#2)* (PDF)
- Information Literacy homework #1: primary vs. secondary sources

Week 4: Dionysus and Humans

Sept 20: Dionysus

- Powell, Chapter 11, p. 262-291
- ★ *Homeric Hymns to Dionysus (#1 and 7)* (PDF)
- ★ Euripides, *Bacchae* (PDF)

Sept 22: Being Human

- Powell, Chapter 5 and 12, p. 108-133 and 292-323
- ★ Hesiod, *Works and Days*, p. 23-50 (PDF)

Week 5: Heroes

Sept 27: The Heroic Model: Perseus, Heracles, Jason

- Powell, Chapters 13, 14, and 15, p. 324-397
- ★Compilation of Texts about Perseus (10 texts)
- [TEDEd video: "The myth of Jason and the Argonauts" by Iseult Gillespie \(5:15\).](#)

Sept 29: In-class Midterm Exam #1

- ★Homer, *The Essential Homer*, selections from *The Iliad*, books 1-9, p. 1-106

Week 6: Homer

Oct 4: Homer's *Iliad*

- ★Homer, *The Essential Homer*, selections from *The Iliad*, books 11-24, p. 107-240
- [TEDEd video: "Did ancient Troy really exist?" by Einav Zamir Dembin \(4:38\).](#)
- [TEDEd video: "Did the Amazons really exist?" by Adrienne Mayor \(5:05\).](#)

Oct 6: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

- ★Homer, *The Essential Homer*, selections from *The Odyssey*, books 1-11, p. 241-365
- [TEDEd video: "Everything you need to know to read *The Odyssey*" by Jill Dash \(4:56\).](#)

Week 7: Homer and Tragedy

Oct 11: Homer's *Odyssey*

- ★Homer, *The Essential Homer*, selections from *The Odyssey*, books 13-end, p. 366-482
- Information Literacy homework 2: proper citation in Word and bibliography

Oct 13: Oedipus

- **Paper #1 due at 5pm via my.aur**
- Powell, Chapter 18, p. 454-481
- ★Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, (Harris & Platzner textbook) p. 679-727 (PDF)

Week 8: National Myths: The Greeks

Oct 18: A Female Hero?

- ★Sophocles, *Antigone*, (Harris & Platzner textbook) p. 728-763 (PDF)

Oct 20: Theseus

- Powell, Chapter 16-17, p. 398-453

Week 9: National Myths: The Oresteia

Oct 25: The Oresteia

- Harris and Platzner, Chapter 15, p. 583-600 (PDF)
- ★Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, p. 3-67 (PDF)
- ★Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers*, p. 69-115 (PDF)

Oct 27: The Oresteia

- ★Aeschylus, *Eumenides*, p. 117-160 (PDF)

Week 10: Midterm and Field Trip

Nov 1: NO CLASS (All Saints' Day)

Nov 3: In-class Midterm Exam #2

Nov 5: Field Trip to Palatine and Roman Forum (required—in the morning)

Week 11: National Myths: The Romans

Nov 8: Roman Origins

- Powell, Chapter 24, 635-658
- ★Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita*, Chapter 1, p. 29-104 (PDF)
- [TEDEd video: "Who were the Vestal Virgins, and what was their job?" by Peta Greenfield. \(4:32\).](#)

Nov 10: Aeneas

- Powell, Chapter 23, p. 608-634
- ★Virgil, Selections from *The Aeneid* (Harris & Platzner textbook) p. 857-923 (PDF)
- [TEDEd video: "Why should you read Virgil's Aeneid?" by Mark Robinson \(5:35\).](#)

Week 12: National Myths: The Romans

Nov 15: Ovid I

- Harris & Platzner, Chapter 20, p. 924-931 (PDF)
- ★Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books 1, 3, 4 (about 28 pages)
- [TEDEd video: "The myth of Arachne" by Iseult Gillespie \(4:29\).](#)

Nov 17: Ovid II

- ★Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books 14-15 (about 20 pages)

FALL BREAK: Nov 22-26

Week 13-14: Closing Thoughts

Nov 29: Evaluating Sources Activity

- bring laptops to class (also available to borrow from AUR)
- Information Literacy homework 3: finding and using images; copyright

Dec 1: Approaching Classical myth today

- **Paper #2 due via my.aur by 5pm**
- Harris & Platzner, Chapter 21, p. 967-1000 (PDF)

Dec 6: (Make-up day for Nov 1) TBD

- readings TBD

Final Exam: Monday, December 13, 2021, 1-3pm in B304