Classical Mythology  
CLT 3370.01  
MWF 12:30-1:20pm  
Room: ENG1 224

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Office hours: MW 3:30-5:00pm

I. Description:
This course will analyze and study varieties of mythologies that existed in the ancient worlds around the Mediterranean Sea, concentrating on Greece and Rome from 700 BC to AD 400. Evaluation will also be made for the ongoing effect of these myths on modern civilization.

II. Objectives
1. To know 7 major types of mythology.  
2. To explore the diversity of cultural issues in mythology.  
3. To analyze the function of mythological types in ancient societies.  
4. To evaluate the cultural impact & influence of mythological worldviews on ancient and modern society through two analysis papers.

III. Texts

Required:  

Recommended:  

IV. Grading Scale

3 essay tests: 60%  
2 Analysis Papers 35%  
Discussion/Attendance: 05%

90’s: A, 80’s: B, 70’s: C, 60 or below: F (+/- scale: 0-2=minus, 7-9=plus)

V. WITHDRAWAL POLICY
It is the responsibility of each student to notify registration if personal or schedule complication result in the need to withdraw from this course. The withdrawal deadline for the Spring term is Nov 2. If you discontinue attendance and assignments but fail to drop after this date, you will receive an F for the course.
VI. Course Expectations

1. Read all scheduled material before date listed and bring related text books and material to class.
2. Be on time and turn off cell phones and any electronic devices. Laptops must be approved by instructor.
3. Conflict with testing and assignment dates must be addressed before scheduled times verbally or by email. In case of emergencies, please notify of reason on missed day.
4. Presentation of analysis and ideas in discussion will be encouraged without attempts to prescribe one view (although some are just wrong!).

VII. Analysis Paper: Content and Procedure

1. Each paper must be at least 5 pages long, 1500 words and be based on a Classical myth.
2. Sources not cited and ideas not credited will be considered plagiarism and will result in zero credit for assignment.
3. Each paper will analyze a topic or type of mythology for its social and cultural functions.
4. Select myths or mythological types from the art or literature in the text books or other sources for analysis.
5. Use the literature and/or art to discuss how the myth or mythological figure affected the moral and social structure of the society.
6. Select or create audiences for analysis. Explore why groups would believe in such myths and how views of this myth changed at a later time.
7. Finally, evaluate what impact, if any, these myths have had on western culture and society (ex: the belief in afterlife rewards)
CLASS SCHEDULE

Text Abbreviations:
CM: Harris & Platzner, Classical Mythology
SI: Powell, Short Introduction to Classical Myth

DATES reading assignment, tests, papers

Aug 24 Intro to Mythology: Goals and Methods of Course.
Aug 26-31 Introduction: What is Mythology?
SI: Ch 1, “What is a Myth?” Ch 2 & 3, “The meaning of Myth, I & II”
CM: Ch 1, “Introduction” and Ch 2, “Ways of Interpreting Myth”

Sept 7 Labor Day
Sept 2-14 Part 1: Creation Myths: How did the world begin?
SI: Ch 6, “Myth and Creation”
CM: Ch 3, “In the Beginning”

Sept 16-23 Part 2: Mythic History: What really happened?
CM: Ch 12, “Heroes at War,” Ch 13, “A Different Kind of Hero”

Sept 25 TEST 1: Creation Myth and Mythic History

Sept 28-Oct 9 Part 3: Hero Myths: Who is a Hero?
SI: Ch 8, “Myth and the Hero”
CM: Ch 10, “Heroes of Myth” and Ch 11, “Heroines of Myth”
and Ch 19, “Virgil’s Roman Epic”

Oct 14 Paper Topic: Mythical Worldview vs Science

Oct 12-Nov 4 Part 4: Social Myths: How should I live?
and Ch 17, “A Different Perspective on Tragedy”

Nov 2 WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE
Nov 6 Test 2: Hero and Social Myths
Nov 9-20  Part 5: Religious Myth: What should we believe?
   SI: Ch 7, “Greek Myth and Greek Religion” and Ch 13, “Roman Myth and Roman Religion”

Nov 23  Paper Topic: Social Values and Myth

Nov 26-29  Thanksgiving Break

Nov 23-  Part 6: Pantheon Myths: Which gods do we worship?
   Dec 4  SI: Ch 15, “Myth and Art”

Dec 7  Part 7: Myth and the Modern Age
   CM: Ch 21, “The Persistence of Myth”

Dec 11  FINAL EXAM: Friday, 10am