Classics 30: Classical Mythology (Fall 2018)

Professor Alex Purves
Department of Classics
Dodd 226B
Office hours: Wednesdays 3–5 and by appointment
purves@humnet.ucla.edu

Course Description and Objectives
The mythology of the ancient Greeks and Romans was more than the family trees of their gods and heroes. They used myth as a way of reflecting upon underlying issues in their society, and as a means of working through various structures of thought and belief held by the community as a whole. Myths might set codes or rules by which individuals can orient themselves, establishing a template for what it means to be a human, to be a citizen, or to live with certain choices. But why then is Greek and Roman mythology often outlandish and risky in its subject matter? Why does it so often show characters breaking rules and rejecting norms? Why—unlike folktale, for example—does it trade so explicitly in the fantastic or impossible? Since myth is typically so entertaining, how has it managed to convey serious and enduring messages, resulting, for example, in some of Freud’s best-known theories about the human psyche?

In this course we will study Greek and Roman mythology through literature, art, philosophy, history, science, and reception, following a rough mythological chronology which begins with the birth of the cosmos and ends with Aeneas, one of the remaining Trojan heroes after the fall of Troy, sailing to Italy and beginning the civilization that will become Rome. Students will come away from this course not only with a strong sense of the various stories, poets, and traditions within the Greek and Roman world, but also having thought carefully and analytically about the function of myth and its purpose both in ancient societies and our own.

Apart from working hard in this course, one of the most important things you can do this quarter is exercise your right to vote. If you are a resident of California, you can register to vote, check your voting status, or request a vote-by-mail ballot by October 30th here: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-november-6-2018/ If you are a resident of a different state, please go to https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote. The Greeks gave us democracy, but it’s yours only if you vote!

Course website: https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/18F-CLASSIC30-1

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00A – 10:50A. Dodd 147.

Teaching Assistants

Laura Horan lh3412@ucla.edu
Diana Librandi dianalibrandi@ad.ucla.edu
Katherine Roche kroche@g.ucla.edu

Sections meet on Thursdays. It is important that you check the Registrar’s schedule of classes online to verify rooms before the first section, as rooms sometimes change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>8:00A</td>
<td>ROYCE 152</td>
<td>Diana Librandi</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>9:00P</td>
<td>BUNCHE 3123</td>
<td>Diana Librandi</td>
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<td>1C</td>
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<td>ROYCE 148</td>
<td>Laura Horan</td>
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<td>1D</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>11:00P</td>
<td>ROYCE 148</td>
<td>Laura Horan</td>
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<td>1E</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>BUNCHE 3123</td>
<td>Katherine Roche</td>
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<td>1F</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3:00A</td>
<td>PUBLIC AFFAIRS 147</td>
<td>Katherine Roche</td>
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Required Reading Material, available at UCLA Book Store (Ackerman). Listed in order of appearance in course. You must use the text and translation listed here, not a different translation.

Hesiod, *The Theogony, Works and Days, Shield* transl. Athanassakis (Johns Hopkins)

The Homeric Hymns, transl. Athanassakis (Johns Hopkins)

Homer, *The Odyssey*, transl. Lombardo (Hackett)

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia* transl. Grene and Lattimore (Chicago)

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, transl. Grene (Chicago)

Euripides, *Bacchae*, transl. Woodruff (Hackett)


*OPTIONAL PURCHASE: Homer, *The Iliad*, transl. Lombardo (Hackett). Alternatively, you may download and print a scan of the readings from this text from the course website.

Breakdown of Grades

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date and Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(refer to your TA’s syllabus for more details)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation Assignment (4%)</td>
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<td>(Saturday October 6th, 10pm – graded at 0, 75, or 95%)</td>
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<td>Quiz 6%</td>
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<td>(Thursday October 18th, in section)</td>
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<td>Midterm 20%</td>
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<td>(Friday November 2nd, in lecture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 10%</td>
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<td>(Sunday November 11th, 11 pm, to turnitin.com)</td>
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<td>Paper 20%</td>
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<td>(Wednesday November 28th, 9 pm, to turnitin.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final 30%</td>
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<td>(Monday December 10th, 3–6pm)</td>
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In order to do well in this class, you must read the required material BEFORE the lecture, and you must be ready to discuss it prior to your section. Get into the habit of jotting down your own ideas a) as you read and b) in lecture. You will be expected to bring not just yourselves but your thoughts on the material to section.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense, and ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse. All cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a grade of zero and will be reported to the Dean of Students. At that stage you could lose your financial aid, your student housing, be asked to leave the university, and/or have the plagiarism inserted into your academic record. If you do not fully understand what plagiarism is, or in any cases of doubt, always feel free to contact me or your Teaching Assistant. You are required to read this guide carefully on how not to plagiarize: [http://guides.library.ucla.edu/bruin-success/home](http://guides.library.ucla.edu/bruin-success/home) (also be sure to pull down the menus under ‘citing and documenting sources,’ ‘avoiding disaster,’ and ‘don’t get busted’ boxes).

Turnitin.com

The paper for this course must be 6-8 pp. long. You will find specific guidelines on the course website as to formatting and other issues. Papers must adhere to these guidelines in order to receive full credit. All papers must be electronically submitted to [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) by the stated time and date (hard copies will not be accepted as evidence of submission). It is your responsibility to do a trial run of submitting a test document to this site in advance. Last minute technological difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse, nor will the untimely malfunction of your computer, internet connection, roommate, etc., (see penalties for late paper, below).
Penalties
Late Paper: 2% deducted per 24 hours from paper's final grade. See penalties for writing assignments on course website. No extensions, no excuses, except in the case of documented emergencies. Missed Final or Midterm—You will receive a 0 for any exams you miss. No make-ups, no excuses, except in the case of documented emergencies.
If you have a query regarding one of these rules, please contact me directly, not your TA.

Classroom Etiquette
Please refrain from talking during lectures. It not only distracts the lecturer but also those trying to listen around you.
Do not walk out of lectures midway. If you have an urgent appointment, please sit at the back of the room so that you can leave unobtrusively.
Mobile devices must be switched off for lectures and sections and are not allowed in the room during exams.
Emailing or web-surfing of any kind is prohibited during lectures, as is reading the newspaper, listening to music, or any other activity that takes your attention away from the lecture itself.
Please respect the requests that any of the TAs might make to you in lecture and know that your behavior in lecture may be reflected in your participation grade for the course.

Illnesses and Personal Tragedies
Please alert me immediately to any situations involving serious illness or emergency and provide me with written verification in all cases. I will be sympathetic but always skeptical until proof is provided. In case of minor illness, please provide your TA with a doctor’s note. Attendance is obligatory at all sections and lectures. If you must miss a lecture please catch up by watching the Bruincast, which can be accessed through the class ccle page.

Sensitive Material
Please be aware that some of the material in this course may be personally upsetting. For example, ancient Greek and Roman myths often explore taboo topics such as incest, and sexual violence was prevalent in ancient Greek society. If you have concerns about any of the topics broached in this class, please contact me directly as soon as possible. I want to hear from you and will work with you to find a solution.

Bruincast
Lectures and slides may be reviewed on Bruincast, accessible through your ccle page. If you have problems accessing the Bruincasts of these lectures, please contact bruincasthelp@ucla.edu.
Please note that I do not post my lecture slides online, but they can be easily accessed by reviewing the lecture on Bruincast.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

WK 0.

1. GREEK EPIC (c. 8th – 6th centuries BCE)
   Thursday September 27th DISCUSSION SECTION: Introduction, TA Syllabus, discussion.
   Attendance mandatory.
   LEC 1. Friday September 28th Introduction. What is Myth?

WK 1.

1.1. HESIOD: In the beginning…
   LEC 2. Monday October 1st The Creation of the Greek Cosmos; Hesiod, Theogony, lines 1–452 (you may also find helpful the notes at the end of the poem)
   LEC 3. Wednesday October 3rd Battle, Succession, and Interpretation; Theogony, lines
WK 2. 1.2. THE HOMERIC HYMNS: The Lives of the Greek Gods I
LEC 5. Monday October 8th: Sexual Desire: Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite (Hymn 5 in Athanassakis, The Homeric Hymns)
LEC 6. Wednesday October 10th: Mothers and Daughters Homeric Hymn to Demeter (Hymn 2).
LEC 7. Friday October 12th: Growing up as a God: Homeric Hymn to Apollo; Homeric Hymn to Hermes (Hymns 3 & 4)

WK 3. 1.3. HOMER’S ILIAD: The Lives of the Greek Gods II
LEC 9. Wednesday October 17th: Facing Death: Iliad selections from bks. 16, 22 & 24 (Lombardo/CCLE); Xenophanes; Theagenes, Metrodorus (CCLE)

** Quiz (20 minutes) Thursday October 18th, in section

1.4. HOMER’S ODYSSEY: Gods, Monsters, and Mortals.
LEC 10. Friday October 19th: Looking back to Troy: Alice Oswald, Memorial (selection) CCLE; Troy in film, Iliad 24 (reread); Odyssey (Lombardo) bk. 1

WK 4. 1. 11. Monday October 22nd: What’s the Son of a Hero to Do? – Telemachus Odyssey bks. 2–4, Linda Pastan, “At the Loom,” “Rereading the Odyssey in Middle Age,” “The Son” (CCLE)
LEC 12. Wednesday October 24th: Myth and the Fantastic Odyssey books 5-6
LEC 13. Friday October 26th: Telling Myths (and rationalizing them) Odyssey books 7-8

WK 5. 14. Monday October 29th: Table Manners (Myth and Culture) Odyssey books 9-10
LEC 15. Wednesday October 31st: Meeting with the Dead Odyssey books 11-12

** MIDTERM (50 minutes) in lecture Friday November 2nd. Arrive promptly. Bring blue book.
**PAPER TOPICS POSTED ON COURSE WEBSITE Friday November 2nd

WK 6. 2. GREEK TRAGEDY (5th century BCE)
2.1. AESCHYLUS, ORESTEIA: The Cycle of Revenge
LEC 16. Monday November 5th: Back at Argos... Aeschylus, Agamemnon (Grene & Lattimore, Orestes)

** ELECTION DAY. Tuesday November 6th VOTE!
LEC 17. Wednesday November 7th: What’s the Son of a Hero to Do? – Orestes Aeschylus, Libation Bearers (Grene & Lattimore, Orestes)
LEC 18. Friday November 9th: Myth and the City Aeschylus, Eumenides (Grene & Lattimore, Orestes)

**AP TRAVELS FOR CONFERENCE: NO IN-CLASS LECTURE Friday November 9th. Watch lecture posted on CCLE site.
** WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE Sunday November 11th at 11.55pm.

WK 7. Monday November 12th Veteran’s Day (No lecture)
2.2. SOPHOCLES, OEDIPUS THE KING: The Endurance of the Oedipus Myth
LEC 19. Wednesday November 14\textsuperscript{th} Know Yourself Sophocles, \textit{Oedipus the King} (Grene); Freud on Myth (CCLE)
2.3. EURIPIDES, \textit{BACCHAE}: Dionysus, Odd God Out?
LEC 20. Friday November 16\textsuperscript{th} Know Your God Euripides, \textit{Bacchae} (Woodruff)

WK. 8. 3. ROMAN MYTH (1\textsuperscript{st} century BCE – 1\textsuperscript{st} century CE)
3.1. VIRGIL, \textit{AENEID}: Rewriting Homer
LEC 21. Monday November 19\textsuperscript{th}: \textit{Leaving Troy} Virgil’s \textit{Aeneid} (Fitzgerald), bk. 1
LEC 22. Wednesday November 21\textsuperscript{st} \textit{Flashback} Virgil’s \textit{Aeneid} bks. 2&3
**WRITING ASSIGNMENT RETURNED
-- THANKSGIVING BREAK --

WK. 9. LEC 23. Monday November 26\textsuperscript{th} Looking Forwards: Towards the Foundation of Rome \textit{Aeneid} bk. 4.
LEC 24. Wednesday November 28\textsuperscript{th}: Underworld: \textit{Aeneid} bk. 6
**PAPER DUE to Turnitin.com Wednesday November 28\textsuperscript{th} at 9pm. Also hand in paper copy in section 11/29.

3.2. SENECA, \textit{THYESTES}: Reviewing the Atreus Myth
LEC 25. Friday November 30\textsuperscript{th}: Delicious myths? Cannibalism Again Seneca, \textit{Thyestes} (Wilson)

LEC 27. Wednesday December 5\textsuperscript{th} Family Relations \textit{Metamorphoses} pp. 134-142, 176-178, 225-248; W.H. Auden, “Musée des Beaux Arts” (CCLE)
LEC 28. Friday December 7\textsuperscript{th}: Conclusion

**FINAL EXAM: Monday December 10\textsuperscript{th} 3-6pm.